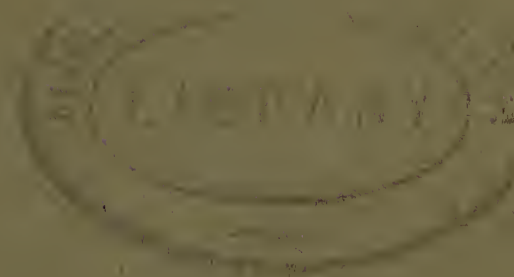


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REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF

WEST BROMWICH

FOR THE YEAR

1925

BY

ALLAN B. HAMILTON,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

DEPUTY AND ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO WHICH ARE APPENDED THE

REPORTS

OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR and BOROUGH ANALYST.

MAY, 1926.

WEST BROMWICH :

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County Borough of West Bromwich.

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the County
Borough of West Bromwich.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In submitting this Annual Report on the Health of the County Borough of West Bromwich for the year 1925, I would desire first of all to record the heavy loss which the Borough has sustained through the untimely and sudden death of Dr. R. Woolsey Stocks, the late Medical Officer of Health. It is at a time like this, in summarising the work of the year and in this survey report the work of the last five years, that he is much missed. His knowledge of the work was intimate, his desire to promote the welfare of the people keen, and a study of the facts and figures of this Report will show that what progress has been made in improving the well being of the people of this Borough has been due in very large measure to his knowledge and foresight.

This Report, as already stated, is a Survey Report summarising the work done and the progress made during the last five years, and is set out in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health. The Sections dealing with Housing, and Inspection and Supervision of Food are the work of Mr. Spears, Chief Sanitary Inspector, whose experience and knowledge of the work is extensive and thorough, and to whom I wish to express my indebtedness for assistance and advice during the past seven months.

In conclusion I would point out that the alleviation of human suffering and all that this includes, the improvement of the conditions under which the people live, either by encouragement or compulsion, the supervision of the necessities of life and the conditions under which the people work—as far as such power is given to the Council—these are duties which must continue as a necessary expense on the community which benefits from them. The money expended can never return a cash dividend, but a close study of the Report will show that the benefits to the people have been real and substantial, and will furnish the critic with information which will help and not hinder future work. There is an increasing tendency to regard many aspects of this work as a substitute or addition to the work of the Guardians. Overlapping of effort and expenditure occur, a state of affairs which cannot be defended or justified.

I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the kindly help and encouragement given to me by members of Committees, Physicians and Surgeons of the Local and Birmingham Hospitals, the Officers of the Poor Law, and to the Staff for willing help through an anxious and busy period.

I am, Sir,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALLAN B. HAMILTON,

Deputy and Acting Medical Officer of Health.

MAY, 1926.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

AREA (Acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,860
POPULATION—Census 1921...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73,647
Registrar General, middle 1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	79,490
Number of Inhabited Houses (end 1921)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,200
Number of Separate Occupiers (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,265
Number of Inhabited Houses (end 1925)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,898
New Houses Built (1925)	...	...	...	...	...	...	160
Rateable Value (1925)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£291,599
Product of 1d. Rate (Consolidated Rate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,037

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS, 1925
(Reg. General).

BIRTHS.				Male.	Female.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	913	860	1773
Illegitimate	...	...	...	27	21	48
Total	...	...	...	940	881	1821
DEATHS.						
All Causes	...	...	...	497	453	950
Infants under 1 year—						
Legitimate	...	...	...	100	70	170
Illegitimate	...	...	...	5	5	10
Total	...	...	...	105	75	180
Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	22.9
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	11.95
Infant Mortality Rate (Total)	...	...	...	...	...	98.8
Legitimate, 95.9					Illegitimate, 208.3	
Deaths from Measles (Total)	...	...	...	...	...	30
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	15
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	36
Deaths due to Childbirth	...	...	...	...	...	8
Sepsis, 5					Other Causes, 3.	

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH, DURING THE YEAR 1925.

CAUSES.	Deaths of Residents "in " or " out."										Deaths in Institutions Resident or Non-resident			
	All Ages	Und'r 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 to 75	75 and over	W'rk-house	Dist. Hosp. ital.	Fever Hosp. ital.	Total
Enteric Fever	...	6	19	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	30	...	19	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	2	4	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
Whooping Cough	15	...	7	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
Diphtheria	8	...	...	5	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	7	10
Influenza	37	1	1	1	3	1	9	14	6	1	2	...	...	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	3
Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	59	2	1	2	3	14	20	16	1	...	23	1	...	24
Other Tuberculous Diseases	13	3	2	1	5	1	...	1	...	...	6	6	...	12
Cancer, Malignant Disease	93	...	...	...	1	2	4	63	16	7	34	9	...	43
Rheumatic Fever	4	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	1
Diabetes	7	...	...	...	2	...	2	1	1	1	2	1	...	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	41	...	...	...	...	...	1	18	12	10	19	1	...	20
Heart Disease	58	...	...	...	...	1	5	24	19	9	16	1	...	17
Arterio Sclerosis	35	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	11	21	26	...	...	26
Bronchitis	94	16	4	1	2	...	8	12	26	25	36	2	...	38
Pneumonia (all forms)	115	37	29	10	4	4	5	15	6	5	18	1	...	19
Other Respiratory Diseases...	11	1	...	...	1	...	1	2	5	1	1	2	...	3
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	9	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	1	1	...	1	...	1
Diarrhoea, etc.	41	30	6	1	1	...	...	...	2	1	6	1	...	7
Appendicitis and Typhilitis	7	...	...	...	4	1	2	...	...	...	6	4	...	10
Cirrhos's of Liver	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	18	1	2	...	2	1	5	3	4	...	4	1	...	5
Puerperal Sepsis	5	...	...	...	...	2	3	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	3	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility, Malformations, Premature Birth	60	60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	2	...	15
Suicide	5	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	...	...	1	2	...	3
Other Deaths from Violence	30	2	1	7	4	2	4	4	4	2	2	30	...	32
Other Defined Diseases	140	17	7	5	9	4	11	29	11	47	73	26	1	100
Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	5	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	950	180	79	41	48	36	90	219	126	131	299	92	12	403

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1925.

	BIRTHRATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.										RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS	
		ALL CAUSES	Enteric Fever	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diph- theria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under Two Years)	Total Deaths under one Year	
England and Wales	18.3	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.32	0.47	8.4	75	
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, in- cluding London	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.18	0.09	0.30	0.43	10.8	79	
157 Smaller Towns (1921 adjusted Populations 20,000-50,000	18.3	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.14	0.06	0.31	0.38	7.6	74	
London	18.0	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.19	0.11	0.23	0.46	10.6	67	
West Bromwich	22.98	11.9	0.00	0.00	0.37	0.02	0.19	0.10	0.46	0.37	19.8	98.8	

DISEASE.	Cases Notified in the District.					Case Rate per 1,000 living.	
						West Bromwich	England and Wales
						Nil	0.14
SMALL POX	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.14
SCARLET FEVER	170	170	2.13	2.13	2.36
DIPHTHERIA	101	101	1.27	1.27	1.23
ENTERIC FEVER	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.07
PUERPERAL FEVER	8	8	0.10	0.10	0.06
ERYSIPELAS	49	49	0.61	0.61	0.39

The following amounts were spent on Outdoor Relief in West Bromwich :—

1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
£6950	£49094	£31671	£18729	£16788

Hospital Beds (Guardians) have been fairly well occupied. When the re-organisation and re-construction is completed, Hallam Hospital promises to be one of the best equipped in the Midlands, and already the accommodation is being fully utilised.

For a Midland Town at the eastern side of the “Black Country,” West Bromwich compares favourably with similar areas. Standing at an elevation of some 500 feet, two conditions which are not in themselves unfavourable to health, high wind and abundance of rain, are found.

The Rainfall for last five years—

		1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Midland Counties	...	18.51	29.72	30.13	33.51	27.89
West Bromwich	...	18.24	30.65	30.47	33.09	30.36
England East	...	13.70	25.25	23.62	28.48	23.11

There are still fairly large areas available for building, and several Parks—Dartmouth Park 65 acres, Farley Park 5 acres, Oakwood House 17 acres, Kenrick Park 21 acres, Hill Top Park 5 acres, Oak House and Grounds 4 acres, and in addition a large newly-reclaimed area 62 acres for Playing Fields.

Whatever be the merits or demerits of the houses built by the Local Authority, abundance of open space round them and well made roads are very commendable features, conditions which will prevent the houses for ever from becoming “slums” in the ordinary sense. Of “slums” however there is still abundance.

CHIEF OCCUPATIONS.—The following facts are taken from the Census 1921.

From 12 years of age and upwards there were 23,464 males and 8,103 females occupied out of a total population (over 12) of 54,528.

The Occupations and number engaged are—

	Males	Females
Metal Workers	10480	1952
Transport	1712	94
General Labourers	1657	—
Commercial, Financial (Proprietors Travellers, Salesmen, etc). ...	1303	824
Builders, Bricklayers	1114	—
Wood, Furniture, Carpenters ...	861	98
Mining	804	—
Clerks	802	848
Glass Making (Bricks)	537	85
Warehousemen	403	475
Stationary Engine Drivers ...	383	—
Personal Service (Barmen, Domestics)	345	1486
Professions	331	440
Painters, Decorators	324	—
Paper (Printers, etc).	305	604
Makers of Foods, Drinks ...	282	112
Public Administration	272	64
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply	234	—
Electric Apparatus, Watches, etc.	214	—
Gardeners, Agricultural	184	—
Textiles, Makers of Dress ...	183	393
Chemicals, Paints	153	64
		(approx).
Workers in Unclassified Materials	119	145
Entertainments	86	44
Leather Workers	44	59
Precious Metals	36	167
		(approx).
Others Unclassified	296	149

It will be apparent that the Metal Industry is the chief, being divided into Iron Founding, Forging, Steel Rolling, Hollow Ware Goods, Spring and Tube Making.

None of the Industries can be said to have had any marked prejudicial effect on health. Although during the last 5 years 862 houses have been built by the Council and 256 houses by private enterprise, housing conditions still remain bad.

According to the Census 1921, 100 persons live in 88 rooms (for the whole Borough) varying from 76 in Greets Green to 111 in Sandwell.

12,385 individuals (17.1% of the population) were living “more than 2 persons to a room.”

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospitals.	Name.	Situation.	Accommodation	By whom provided.	Area Served.
1. Tuberculosis	Knightwick Sanatorium.	Knightwick, Worcester	8 Beds	Subsidised	West Bromwich
	Holly Lane Sanatorium.	Smethwick	5 Beds	Subsidised	West Bromwich
	Red House	Great Barr	Not opened	Council (purchased 1920)	West Bromwich
2. Maternity	Hallam Hospital	West Bromwich	12 Beds	Guardians	Parishes of West Bromwich, Handsworth, Wednesbury, Perry Barr, Oldbury* West Bromwich
3. Fever	Borough Hospital	West Bromwich	50 Beds	Council	West Bromwich
4. Small-pox	Friar Park Hospital	West Bromwich	10 Beds	Council	West Bromwich
5. Children's	Hallam Hospital	West Bromwich		Guardians	See above*
6. Other	Hallam Hospital	West Bromwich	192*	Guardians	do. *
	Hospital District Hospital	West Bromwich	105	Voluntary	West Bromwich, Wednesbury, Oldbury.

* Re-construction not completed.

Special Hospitals in Birmingham are also available and are used by West Bromwich but not subsidised by the Council, except for certain Orthopaedic and Tubercular cases which have to a limited extent been paid for by the Council.

Hallam Hospital (Guardians) also provide for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children. For this last a new home at Great Barr has recently been provided (up to 5 years). For children of school age accommodation is provided at Wigmore Schools, situated in West Bromwich, a joint concern under the control of Walsall and West Bromwich Guardians.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) INFECTIOUS CASES.—Motor Ambulance provided by Council.

(b) SMALLPOX.—Horse Ambulance provided by Council.

(c) NON-INFECTIOUS AND ACCIDENT.—(1) Motor Ambulance provided by Council. (2) Motor Ambulance provided by the Guardians.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

	Name.	Accommodation.	Purpose.	By whom provided.
Maternity and Child Welfare	(1) Spon Lane	Large Private House Shop and House	Consultation, Sale of Food do.	Council (purchased) Council (purchased)
	(2) Great Bridge (" Greet's Green ")			
	(3) Lyndon	House House	do.	Council (Rented)
	(4) Hill Top		do.	Council (Rented)
Day Nurseries		None		
School Clinics	(1) Central Lombard Street	Specially Built Small Room Small Room Part of M. & C.W. premises	do.	Council (Education Com). do. do. do.
	(2) Spon Lane School		Treatment	
	(3) Hill Top School		Treatment	
	(4) Great Bridge (" Greet's Green ")		Treatment	
Tuberculosis Dispensary	Lodge Road	Private House	Consultation & Treatment	Council (purchased)
Venereal Diseases	General Hospital, Birmingham Guest Hospital, Dudley	Out-patient and In-patient	Consultation & Treatment	Subsidised
		Out-patient	Consultation & Treatment	Voluntary

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

- (1) R. WOOLSEY STOCKS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
late Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.
Died 19th December, 1925.
- (2) ALLAN B. HAMILTON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
(2) ANNE SIMPSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Assistant Medical Officers and Assistant School Medical
Officers.
- (1) (5) H. H. SPEARS, F.S.I.A.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector. Inspector of Food and Drugs
and Superintendent of Removal of Refuse.
- (5) W. E. LYON, *Assistant Meat and Food Inspector.*
(5) W. W. FOAKES, *Assistant Sanitary Inspector.*
(5) G. H. SHAW, *Assistant Sanitary Inspector.*

MISS A. DAVIS, *Matron of Borough Hospital.*

- X MISS H. E. ROBINSON, *Superintendent of West Bromwich*
District Nursing Association.

- (3) (6) SISTER C. COLLINS, *Tuberculosis Visitor.*
(3) (8) MISS M. COPELAND, *Clerk Dispenser.*
(4) (7) MISS S. A. SMITH, *Health Visitor.*
(4) (6) MISS M. W. POLE, *Health Visitor.*
(4) (6) MRS. L. A. BRYAN, *Health Visitor.*

F. A. OAKES, *Clerical Staff.*

H. INSTON, *Clerical Staff.*

MISS E. M. TANDY, *Clerical Staff.*

MISS L. CHALLIS, *Clerical Staff.*

- X. Part time only. All others are full-time Officers.

- (1) 50% Salary paid by Exchequer Grant.
(2) 50% Salary paid Public Health Acts in respect of Tuberculosis
Maternity and Child Welfare. (School Medical Inspec-
tion 60%).
(3) 50% Salary paid in respect of Tuberculosis.
(4) 50% Salary paid in respect of Maternity and Child Welfare.
(5) Diploma in Meat Inspection. General Certificate of Royal
Sanitary Institute.
(6) 3 years General Training and C.M.B.
(7) State Registered (Bona-fide) and Health Visitor's Certificate.
(8) Diploma of Apothecary Hall, London.

NURSING AT HOME.

(a) GENERAL—

- (1) West Bromwich District Nursing Association (Voluntary).
- (2) Children of School Age—A sum of £500 per annum is paid to this Association by the Education Committee for Home Nursing, School Inspections and School Clinics.

(b) INFECTIOUS DISEASES—

- (1) Children under 5 years—a sum of £100 per annum is paid to the West Bromwich District Nursing Association by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.
- (2) Tuberculosis—a sum of £20 per annum is paid to the same Nursing Association for Home Nursing by the Sanitary Committee.

In addition, when circumstances require, Home Nursing of children is carried out by the Health Visitors.

Fuller reference is made to these services under the respective headings.

MIDWIVES.—There are two subsidised Midwives in the area, a sum of £120 per annum being guaranteed to each. It has been found however that the Midwives earn more than this amount, the surplus being returned to them. The number of Midwives notifying their intention to practice in the area in January, 1925, was 42. C.M.B. by Examination 30 ; Bona-fide Nurses 12, a decrease of 2 trained and 2 bona-fide nurses from 1924.

CHEMICAL WORK.—Analysis of Food and Drugs. A Report by the Borough Analyst is appended.

 LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

- 1854. West Bromwich Improvement Act.
- 1855. West Bromwich Improvement Amendment Act.
- 1865. West Bromwich Improvement Amendment Act.
- 1900. West Bromwich Corporation Act.
- 1903. West Bromwich Corporation Act.
- 1913. West Bromwich Corporation Act.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Date adopted.	Act.	In Force.
9th Nov., 1899.	Infectious Disease (Notification)	9th Jan., 1890
4th Mar., 1891.	Infectious Diseases (Prevention)	1st May, 1891
6th May, 1891.	Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, parts 2, 3, 5	1st July, 1891
1st Jan., 1909.	Notification of Births Act, 1907	4th Feb., 1909
6th Jan., 1909.	Public Health Act (Amendment) Act, 1907, Sec. 95	26th Feb., 1909
5th Mar., 1913.	Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907, Sec. 20, 22, 28, 31, 33, 35, 49, 51, 52, 54, 58, 62—64, 66	30th Oct., 1913
7th May, 1913.	Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907, Sec. 78—81, 85 and 86	14th June, 1913
14th Apl., 1923.	West Bromwich (Offensive Trades) Corporation Order, 1923	7th May, 1923
6th May, 1924.	West Bromwich (Offensive Trades), Corporation Order	28th May, 1924

BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

11th June, 1885.	Mortuary.
23rd Oct., 1899.	Slaughter-houses.
23rd June, 1899.	Public Baths.
18th Sept., 1901.	Common Lodging Houses.
20th Dec., 1904.	Good Rule and Government of the Borough.
14th Oct., 1905.	Drainage of existing Buildings.
14th Oct., 1905.	New Streets and Buildings and Alterations of Buildings.
7th Oct., 1913.	Good Rule and Government of the Borough.
10th Feb., 1914.	Management of Sanitary Conveniences.
11th Mar., 1914.	Prevention of Nuisances arising from Snow.
29th Jan., 1915.	Prevention of Nuisances arising from filth, dust ashes and rubbish, and the keeping of animals.
10th Apl., 1920.	Provision of means of escape in case of fire in certain factories and workshops.
4th Sept., 1920.	Employment of Children.
15th Dec., 1921.	Humane Slaughtering of Animals.
3rd June, 1924.	Houses let in Lodgings or occupied by members of more than one family.
15th Dec., 1921.	Humane Slaughtering of Animals (Temporarily Suspended).
23rd Apl., 1924.	Tents, Caravans, and Sheds.
7th Aug., 1924.	Offensive Trades.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

1st May, 1901. Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

2nd July, 1901. Common Lodging Houses.

6th July, 1921. Sheep Dipping (Sheep Scab Order, 1920).

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER.—Practically the whole of the County Borough is supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. The supply is constant and the water not plumbo-solvent, and is derived from the new Red Sandstone from wells by bore-holes and pumping.

Direct supply to Houses and Standpipes, 15,884.

Average amount used (1925) per head of population (Company's area) 19.91 gallons (domestic use only).

There are still a few surface wells in use.

(1) Wigmore (Bird End)—Gathering ground is Agricultural Land. No pollution has been found. Approximately 50 people are supplied.

(2) Forge Lane.—This shallow well lies in close proximity to a tributary of the River Tame and is not above suspicion, especially during floods. No outbreak of water borne disease has however occurred. Approximately 3 farms are supplied.

(3) There are in addition approximately 20 wells in various parts of the town. No pollution has been found.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The River Tame and its tributaries form for some distance the S.W., N.W., and N.E. boundaries of the Borough. The effluents of Tipton, Wednesbury, Walsall, and West Bromwich Sewerage Farms flow into it but no case of danger or menace to health in the Borough has arisen.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—With the exception of a few isolated buildings in the country districts, the whole of the property in the Borough is drained and connected to a system of Sewers constructed on the partially separate system. The sewerage is dealt with at two Outfall Works, at one of which are percolating filters, and at the other double contact beds. A scheme is now under consideration for extending and re-modelling the latter Works.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—Privies have practically disappeared except in unsewered or rural districts. Where public sewers are not reasonably available and only where sewer extensions occur is it deemed desirable to ask for conversion of privies.

Prior to last Survey Report, administrative action had resulted in the substitution of the vast majority of privies by W.C.s

There are approximately now 200 privies and 12,260 W.Cs.—large proportion of which are cistern flushed, remainder waste water type. Number of houses on privy system, 190.

SCAVENGING.—The whole is now carried out by direct labour. Contents of ashbins removed weekly. Privies, cesspools and ashpits used in connection with W.Cs., emptied periodically or as required. Refuse from privies and cesspools deposited on agricultural land. Since 1922 tipping crude refuse from ashbins and ashpits discontinued. Refuse screened—Vegetable and other offensive matter destroyed in Incinerators. Salvaged cinders, metals, and other articles of economic value, sold.

Wherever possible ashpits have been abolished and ashbins substituted, upwards of 200 such substitutions having taken place in recent years.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.—See Report of Sanitary Inspector.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—Increasing number observations taken of chimneys concerning which complaints were made. Notices were served. Three prosecutions were instituted and orders obtained for abatement.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS, ETC.—The two common Lodging Houses on Register are both subject to Annual License.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS, New Bye-laws adopted.

Fish frying is now a scheduled Offensive Trade. New Bye-laws relating thereto and other offensive trades have been adopted. Including fish frying premises, offensive trades carried on number 94.

SCHOOLS.—See Report to the Education Committee.

HOUSING.

This is dealt with more fully in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

1. General Housing Conditions cause grave anxiety.

2. (a) Great Shortage.

(b) Corporation houses and those built by private persons with subsidy and further developments at Charlemont will still be inadequate.

3.—OVERCROWDING.

(1) **EXTENT**, marked and increasing, especially as regards occupancy of houses intended for single family by two or more families.

(2) **CAUSES**.—Shortage of houses, but in view of constant trade depression it appears that occupiers cannot pay economic rent for new houses being built.

(3) Apart from provision of new houses, little or no action can be taken.

(4) **CASES OVERCROWDING, 1925**.—There are many and very bad cases. No alternative arrangements are possible.

4. FITNESS OF HOUSES.

1. (a) **OLDER PART**.—General standard in older parts poor, in new districts satisfactory.

(b) **DEFECTS**.—Persistent dampness, lack of through ventilation, general dilapidations, inadequate Sanitary and other accommodation.

(c) **CAUSE OF DEFECTS**.—Old and badly constructed houses; rents available preclude spending of such sums necessary to render fit; lack of proper management and supervision of owners in part—a considerable factor is acts of waste and neglect by tenants. This is a contributory, but not the principal cause.

2. **ACTION TAKEN**.—See Statistical Table (Sanitary Inspector's Report).

3. **DIFFICULTIES**.—See (1) (a) Large number of houses have been rendered fit and houses are being made fit better than at war period. Housing shortage preclude action as regards agreeing with owners to convert back-to-back into through houses. Owners of some houses have expressed willingness to do this.

CONDITIONS.—See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

5. As stated in last Survey Report, 36 areas had been represented as unhealthy. One only of these areas (Barton Street and Old End) was dealt with. Most of these houses are now demolished.

Amended representations have been made as regards Swan Village area.

6. **BYE-LAWS**.—See New Bye-laws adopted as regards Houses let in Lodgings, Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

These are working satisfactorily.

7. Handbills as to misuse of Sanitary Conveniences and the need for burning household refuse have been issued. Notices are also painted on Refuse Lorries.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—Bulk of Milk is not produced within the area, but is railway borne. Analyst's Report show fair standard of chemical purity. Cowsheds, Dairies, Milkshops, are regularly inspected. There is a great increase in the sale of bottled sterilized milk.

- (I) See Sanitary Inspector's Report.
- (II) Two applications for producing Pasturized Milk have been withdrawn. One dealer licensed to sell certified milk.
- (III) No refusals, no revocations.
- (IV) Results of Bacteriological Examination of Certified Milk uniformly good.

(b) MEAT.—Meat Inspections are carried out by qualified Meat Inspectors, all District Inspectors holding qualifying Certificate of Meat Inspection. Slaughter-houses and shops are regularly visited and condemned meat destroyed in Incinerator.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

- (II) Butchers circularized and general willingness shown to carry out Regulations.
- (III) No Public Slaughter-house.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES IN THE AREA.

			1920	Jan., 1925	Dec., 1925
Registered	...	...	18	16	16
Licensed	...	...	13	13	14
			—	—	—
Total	...	...	31	29	30
			—	—	—

OTHER FOODS.

(c) General Inspections. Bakehouses are generally in good condition. There are no underground bakehouses. The small and older ones are very poorly equipped. It is desirable that additional powers should be given to close these.

(d) FOOD POISONING.—There have been no extensive outbreaks. The few cases of deaths attributed to Food Poisoning have been investigated but no satisfactory evidence of contamination has been found.

(e) SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.—Samples regularly taken and submitted to Borough Analyst. Results on whole satisfactory. No samples as yet taken under 1923 Regulations.

(f) MILK AND CREAM REGULATIONS.—Several samples taken and with one single exception reported free from preservatives. One case of Boron preservative in milk was found.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The number of cases of the chief notifiable Infectious Diseases (for the last five years) is set out below from which it will be seen that except for 1922 (Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria) and 1923 (Diphtheria) no outbreak of any magnitude has occurred. During 1921, 1922, and 1923 the case mortality from Diphtheria was heavy, particularly during 1922 when the accommodation at the Fever Hospital was severely taxed with a concurrent large number of cases of Scarlet Fever. Diphtheria Antitoxin is distributed free to all Medical Practitioners in the area and used in the Hospital in all cases of Diphtheria or suspected Diphtheria.

The Schick Test (Diphtheria) has on a few cases (Staff and Patients) been used, but is not used as a Routine Examination. Neither the Dick Test (Scarlet Fever) nor the Toxin-Antotoxin method of Immunization against Diphtheria has as yet been employed.

Previous to 1923 examination of Throat Swabs (Diphtheria) and other Clinical Examinations were made at the University of Birmingham. Sputum examinations (Tuberculosis) were made at the Tuberculosis Dispensary. In February, 1923, a small Clinical Laboratory at the Tuberculosis Dispensary was inaugurated. A detailed report on this is given under the heading "Laboratory Report."

It may be mentioned here that good use of the facilities offered has been made by Medical Practitioners. The results of Throat Swabs are telephoned to the doctor and a written report, accompanied by a clean and sterile outfit sent by post later. More elaborate examinations of urine, faeces or for virulence of Diphtheria Bacilli are still done at the University. In addition to being cheaper and quicker the provision of a laboratory has enabled the Medical Officer to make a freer use of Throat Swabs for contacts of Diphtheria than otherwise. On a notification being received, or as a result of a positive Throat Swab (Diphtheria) arrangements are made for removal of the case to Hospital, or if not so desired a Health Visitor visits the case and advises as to the best arrangements to be made and reports to the Medical Officer.

The total number of Notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year was 783.

<i>Notifications.</i>		1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Scarlet Fever	...	260	674	249	217	173
Diphtheria	... ..	92	227	275	84	101

<i>Removed to Hospital.</i>						
Scarlet Fever	...	177	379	163	182	119
Diphtheria	... ..	70	89	159	55	64

<i>Deaths (Total).</i>						
Scarlet Fever	...	3	10	7	7	2
Diphtheria	... ..	14	44	38	5	7

<i>Case Mortality per 1,000 cases.</i>						
Scarlet Fever	...	11.5	14.8	28.1	32.3	11.6
Diphtheria	... ..	152.2	193.8	145.5	59.5	69.3

The figures show a welcome reduction in numbers in respect of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, although the case mortality (that is the severity) of Scarlet Fever showed a tendency to increase from 1921—24.

No outbreak of these diseases occurred in any School during the year. There are no outstanding features to record with respect to these two diseases.

The proportion of cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria occurring over the age of 15 shows a further rise :—

1920	...	7.1%
1921	...	8.5%
1922	...	11.3%
1923	...	15.3%
1924	...	16.6%
1925	...	17.9%

Cerebro Spinal Meningitis, Acute Poliomyelitis, and Encephalitis Lethargica occurred only in isolated instances, only 4 cases altogether being notified.

CHICKEN POX was made notifiable from April to November on account of the prevalence of Small Pox in neighbouring town. Of Chicken Pox 127 cases were notified, a large number of these being visited by the Medical Officer. In no case did any doubt arise as to a possibility of Small Pox, and the Order was allowed to lapse.

SMALL POX.—Although no cases of this disease were notified during the year, it should be realised that Small Pox seems again definitely established and increasing in prevalence in this country ; that the disease although at present mild is true Small Pox and effectively controlled by vaccination ; that all Infectious Diseases show a periodicity of maximum and minimum virulence, and that if this disease is allowed to remain by neglect of vaccination

we will surely again be visited by a real epidemic and an appalling mortality. The value of vaccination against this disease has been proved time and again. It has withstood the bitter and unfair attitude of its opponents for more than a century. The present disquieting proportion of unvaccinated people is not due to success of the anti's as such, but to a generally well recognised human trait that danger which does not immediately threaten is ignored or belittled. If such an outbreak threatens, the populace will rush en masse to be vaccinated—but it will be too late for many of them.

The figures of the Vaccination Officer for the past five years are not encouraging although the increase in the percentage successfully vaccinated is more hopeful.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Total Births (R.G.)	2156	2018	1866	1862	1821
Successful Primary Vaccinations	858	860	1021	1040	851
Conscientious Objections	1186	1012	764	793	872
Percentage Vaccinated	39	43	55	56	47
Percentage Unvaccinated (Conscientious Objections)...	55	50	41	43	48

In any one year the total percentage is less than 100 on account of death before vaccination, removal or insusceptible.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
RE-VACCINATIONS—					
(a) by M.O.H.	—	16	26	23	—
(b) by Public Vaccinator	—	183	362	43	1

ENTERIC FEVER (including PARA TYPHOID).

	Deaths.	Notifications.
1921	—	—
1922	1	—
1923	—	1
1924	—	—
1925	—	—

The returns regarding this disease are eminently satisfactory and in accordance with present conditions over the whole country.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
PNEUMONIA—					
Notifications					
Primary	38	38	43	144	119
Influenzal	—	64	57	92	76
Deaths (Total)	103	149	112	133	110
Removals to Hospital (Total) ...	—	19	9	6	2

BRONCHITIS—

Deaths	87	146	99	101	103
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	8	11	8	5	7

Total Deaths from Respiratory Diseases Non-Tubercular ...	198	306	219	239	220
-----------------------------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Although Acute Primary Pneumonia and Pneumonia following Influenza are definite clinical entities and as a rule easily diagnosed I am not prepared to accept the notification figures as representing a true statement of the prevalence of these diseases. A figure of 100 would in my opinion be nearer the truth. The number of cases treated in Hospital is negligible.

Particulars regarding Measles, Whooping Cough and other Infectious Diseases of children will be found under M. & C. W. Section.

One death from Anthrax occurred in 1924. The case was that of a local butcher previously healthy, who died from Septicaemia—proved bacteriologically due to Anthrax. No source of infection could be traced.

CANCER.—Deaths from this Disease (all forms) for five years are :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Deaths	66	65	74	78	93
Population	75300	76260	77600	78730	79490
Death Rate	0.88	0.85	0.95	0.99	1.17

There does appear a definite increase in this disease but the numbers are too small for any reliable opinion to be formed.

A Cleansing Station is available in the Borough but has not been used for the last four years.

Houses or rooms and bedding, etc., are disinfected after removal of an Infectious Case to Hospital, or if the patient is nursed at home, on advice from the doctor that the case is free from infection (or has completed the specified period of isolation). Disinfection is also carried out after a death from an infectious disease. Formalin Spray is used for the walls and furniture, and Steam Disinfection (at the Borough Fever Hospital for bedding).

Borough Hospitals.

SMALL POX HOSPITAL, (FRIAR PARK).—10 Beds are immediately available but were not required during the year.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL, CEMETERY LANE, 50 Beds.—The beds were not at any time fully occupied during the year, although for the last three months they were nearly so. A total of 225 cases were admitted, 35 of these being from other authorities for which payment was made amounting to £305 (year ending 31st December, 1925.)

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Other.
West Bromwich ...	119	64	Pemphigus 2 Burns 1 Measles 4
Wednesbury ...	8	2	
Tipton ...	—	3	
Dudley ...	2	5	Tonsilitis 1 Burns 1
Walsall ...	—	5	
Brownhills...	—	1	
Hereford ...	1	—	
Hamstead ...	2	—	
Durham ...	1	—	
Smethwick ...	—	1	
Blackheath ...	1	—	Chicken Pox 1
Totals ...	134	81	10

DEATHS IN HOSPITAL—

West Bromwich ...	2	4	Pemphigus 1
Wednesbury ...	1	1	
Tipton ...	—	1	
Dudley ...	—	2	
Totals ...	3	8	1

Cases in Hospital, 1st January, 1925 ...	...	...	...	34
Admitted during 1925 ...	...	...	...	225
Discharged or Died, 1925 ...	...	...	...	242
Cases in Hospital, 31st December, 1925 ...	...	...	...	17

The average duration of Treatment :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	29 days.
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	35 days.
Measles	...	...	...	...	19 days.
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	35 days.
Pemphigus	...	...	...	...	13 days.

The two cases of Pemphigus were admitted as such but the others (8) were sent as Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria.

The arrangements previously made for disinfection of bedding and other articles continue.

From Barr Hall, 56 loads, and from the District Hospital 14 loads were disinfected, for which a total of £28 was paid to the Sanitary Committee.

A Summary of the Cost of the Isolation Hospital :—

				1924—25	1925—26
				Cost per Patient, per week.	
				£	£
Salaries	...	...	...	930 14/-	973 17/-
Provisions	...	...	...	504 7/7	534 9/4
Fuel, Light, and Water	...	...	...	302 4/6 $\frac{1}{4}$	307 5/4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Rates	...	...	...	204 3/0 $\frac{3}{4}$	204 3/7
Other Charges (<i>less</i> income)	...	...	...	987 14/10	1055 18/5 $\frac{1}{4}$
				£2927 44/-	£3073 53/8 $\frac{3}{4}$
1924—25				...	9,300 patient-days.
1925—26				...	8,006 „ „

SUPPLEMENTAL VACCINATION RETURN FOR 1924 AND RETURN FOR 1925.

				WEST BROMWICH		
				Registration Sub-Districts		
				N.E.	S.W.	Total
Births Registered in 1924	...	...	...	883	998	1881
Successfully Vaccinated	...	...	...	456	495	951
Insusceptible of Vaccination	...	...	...	8	0	8
Statutory Declarations of Conscientious						
Objection	...	...	...	365	420	785
Dead Unvaccinated	...	...	...	47	63	110
Postponed by Medical Certificate	...	...	...	2	10	12
Removals traced to other Districts	...	...	...	4	1	5
Removals to places unknown	...	...	...	1	5	6
Cases in default on 31st January, 1926	...	...	...	0	4	4
Total number of Certificates of successful						
Primary Vaccinations received in 1925	...	...	...	414	437	851
Number of Statutory Declarations of Con-						
scientious Objections received during						
1925	...	...	...	406	466	872

One successful re-vaccination was performed by Public Vaccinators in 1925.

I have no means of ascertaining the total number of re-vaccinations by private practitioners, as the law does not require them to send certificates other than of *primary* vaccinations.

W. G. HANSON, Vaccination Officer.

Venereal Disease.

The arrangements for treatment for this disease remain unchanged, and are as follows, at the General Hospital, Birmingham—

GONORRHOEA AND SYPHILIS—

Males. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 3—7 p.m.

Females. Tuesday, 10—12, 4—6 p.m. Friday, 4—6 p.m.

For irrigation—

Males. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Females. Monday, 2—3 p.m.

Some patients have also been treated at the Guest Hospital, Dudley, by arrangement.

Cases from West Bromwich treated at the two Centres are as follows :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Syphilis	17	11	15	5	17
Soft Chancre	1	—	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	11	20	23	16	19
Conditions not Venereal ...	13	14	7	9	4
Total new Cases	42	45	45	30	40
Total Attendances—Out-patients	640	907	798	871	1518
In-patient Days	74	161	48	—	4

EXAMINATION OF PATHOLOGICAL MATERIAL—

Spirochetes	—	—	—	—	—
Gonococci	38	67	56	53	—
Wasserman	71	54	55	30	5

As part of the scheme a notice is published twice a year in the Local Press giving times of attendance, etc., and in addition tram fares are paid to those who are undergoing a course of treatment, amounting in 1925 to £4 : 12 : 3.

General Practitioners in the area have been informed of the facilities for treatment and send their patients direct. No Arseno-Benzol compounds have been issued to the local general practitioners for treatment. Blood for Wasserman tests is sent direct by doctors to the City Laboratory, Birmingham. Other specimens for Bacteriological Examinations are usually sent there, but a few are examined at the Laboratory in West Bromwich. The facilities for treatment certainly appear ample for the patients who make use of them, and before further facilities are suggested it would be wise to ensure that the present arrangements are not sufficient. It may be confidently stated that in a County Borough of 80,000 inhabitants, there are more than an average of 40 new cases each year, and the only way to get at these others is by much more effective advertising of the facilities offered. I would suggest that doctors be asked to display in their surgeries suitably printed cards, and that these be freely distributed also in the Public Urinals, Factories, and other public places. Disease is disease wherever it is found, and it is our duty to prevent it, or failing that, to lessen the misery and suffering which it produces, the extent of which we cannot over estimate.

LABORATORY REPORT FOR YEAR 1925.

The total number of examinations done during the last three years :—

	1923	1924	1925
Throat Swabs	1393	937	1129
Sputum	190	248	261
Others	9	8	10

PERCENTAGE FROM—

I. General Practitioners ...	40	65	50
II. Borough Hospital, Health Dept. School Clinic, etc.	60	35	50
Cost per specimen	9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

The Laboratory was commenced in its present form in February, 1923, and the arrangements made then for the work continue unchanged. Serum ready prepared for incubation is bought from the University, Birmingham, as required.

Results of Throat Swabs, whether positive or negative are telephoned to the Doctor the day following receipt of the specimen, and a written report with a clean sterile outfit sent by post later.

Sputum results are not telephoned. Examinations of a more elaborate nature, such as tests for virulence of Diphtheria Bacilli, or isolation of organisms from faeces or urine, are done at the University, Birmingham.

The only capital expenditure during the year was for linoleum for the floor.

Details of the work done and the cost of materials, heat and light, are attached.

Number of Throat Swabs.					Positive	Negative.	Total.
(a)	General Practitioners	...			98	460	558
(b)	Borough Hospital	...			136	320	456
(c)	Health Department	...			11	76	87
(d)	Clinic	...	...	...	3	25	28

Number of Sputum Examinations.

(a)	General Practitioners	...			38	109	147
(b)	Dispensary	...	...	...	21	93	114

Other Examinations.

(a)	Urine	...	...	...	1	—	1
(b)	Pus	...	...	...	2	2	4
(c)	Hairs for Ringworm	...			3	2	5

Total 1400

COST. (Capital Expenditure not included).

	£	s.	d.
Serum Bought (91 doz. at 4/- doz).	18	4	0
Telephone Messages (General Practitioners, 476 calls)	2	9	7
„ „ (Hospital, 146 calls).	0	15	2½
Microscope Slides, stains, filter paper, etc.	7	15	11
Repairs (Oven & Geyser)	1	2	1
Gas (estimated)	6	18	4
Electricity (estimated)	3	11	2
Cleaning, materials, etc.	4	1	5
Sputum Outfits	0	13	6
Throat Swabs Outfits	1	1	0
Packing Paper, Envelopes, etc.	3	1	11
Postages	5	6	11
Report Books and Slips	1	18	0
	£56	19	0½

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1. INSPECTIONS.

PREMISES	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	15	11	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	141	5	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers premises)	13	—	—
Total	169	16	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	Number of			Number of offences in respect to which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—				
Want of Cleanliness... ..	4	4	—	—
Want of Ventilation	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding	1	1	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances—				
Sanitary Accommodation				
Insufficient	1	1	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective ...	7	5	—	—
Not separate for Sexes ...	2	2	—	—
Total	16	14	—	—

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES—SECTION 108

No action was taken under this heading.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The arrangements made for the treatment and prevention of Tuberculosis remain unchanged.

The figures for the last five years are as follows :—

Notifications (primary).	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
All Forms	88	102	137	113	102
New Cases Examined...	162	131	202	222	189
Total Attendances ...	3704	2652	3089	3756	3965
Contacts Examined ...	47	47	65	53	51
Register of Notifications.		M.	F.	Ch.	Total
Cases on Register, 1st Jan. 1925		—	—	—	—
Pulmonary		77	54	23	154
Non-Pulmonary		6	13	67	86
Cases added during 1925					
Pulmonary		37	32	10	79
Non-Pulmonary		8	3	22	33
Cases removed during 1925					
Pulmonary		40	31	17	88
Non-Pulmonary		1	3	26	30
Cases on Register, 31st Dec., 1925					
Pulmonary		74	55	16	145
Non-Pulmonary		13	13	63	89

Between the ages 15—45 the number of New Cases definitely found suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Males	17	14	17	19	23
Females	13	16	16	16	19

For the whole period, showing a proportion of 90 males to 80 females

It would seem therefore that Sanatorium accommodation should be only slightly greater for males, a contention not however borne out by the actual Cases sent to Sanatorium.

Cases sent	(1) 1921	(2) 1922	(3) 1923	1924	1925
Males	27	28	37	23	30
Females	10	11	25	18	13

Total for Five Years—Males 145, Females 77.

(1)	20	Ex-Service	Men.
(2)	16	„	„
(3)	11	„	„

The claims of the bread-winner are of necessity greater in respect of Sanatorium Treatment, and they as a rule present themselves at the Dispensary more readily. Of the Females sent to Sanatorium, only 7 were in fact Housewives or Domestic, the remainder Factory or other workers.

In Table II, 8 beds are given for males and 5 for females. This is as near as can be stated, although at Knightwick Sanatorium the actual fixed proportion is 6 males and two female beds.

At Holly Lane, 5 beds, there is no fixed proportion, the beds however have during the year been mostly occupied by female cases.

A total of 50 cases were sent to Sanatorium during the year—

			M.	F.	Ch.	Total
			—	—	—	—
In Sanatorium 1st Jan., 1925	...		6	5	2	13
Sent during 1925—						
Pulmonary	...	...	30	13	3	46
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	—	—	4	4
Discharged during 1925	...	...	31	12	6	49
In Sanatorium 31st Dec., 1925	...		5	6	3	14

The beds have again been continuously occupied, the average duration of treatment being 97 days.

A Summary of the results of Sanatorium treatment is given in Table III.

During the year also the following were sent to Hallam Hospital—

				M.	F.	Ch.	Total
				—	—	—	—
Pulmonary	...	...	...	5	11	3	19
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	—	—	3	3

DISTRIBUTION OF TUBERCULOSIS (1921—1925) ALL FORMS,
TOTAL NUMBERS.

Population—Houses are from Census 1921.

NOTIFICATIONS.	Spon Lane.	Lynd'n.	Tan- tany.	Town Hall.	Hill Top.	Greets Green.	Sand- well.	Lyng
Males ...	36	13	28	22	23	31	25	23
Females ...	23	11	26	15	16	22	16	34
Children ...	33	11	24	22	17	39	9	24
Totals ...	92	35	78	59	56	92	50	81
Percentages ...	17	6	14	11	10	17	9	15
Population ...	8975	6195	10138	9321	10180	10330	7172	11336
Incidence per 1000 ...	2.04	1.13	1.54	1.24	1.10	1.78	1.39	1.43

The Average Incidence for the same period being 1.43.

DEATHS—								
Males ...	30	4	21	16	15	19	8	27
Females ...	26	8	19	13	10	11	12	16
Children ...	13	6	8	5	15	15	4	14
Totals ...	69	18	48	34	40	45	24	57
Percentages ...	21	5	14	10	12	13	7	17
Death Rate per 1000 ...	1.54	0.58	0.94	0.73	0.78	0.87	0.67	1.00
Persons per Acre	30.8	3.3	35.2	38.5	11.9	17.2	5.7	27.8
Rooms per person ...	0.83	0.90	0.91	0.98	0.78	0.76	1.11	0.86

The Average Death Rate for the same period being 0.91.

Average for whole Borough, 0.88 rooms per person.

Average for whole Borough, 12.6 persons per acre.

Lyndon Ward has thus the proud distinction of being second lowest in incidence and lowest in Death Rate, Spon Lane Ward being highest in both these rates. Lyng and Tantany Wards are however only slightly better. The figures indicate that there is some justification for spacing out houses and that the more densely populated areas have in fact a greater incidence of and Death Rate from this disease.

In October an Ultra Violet Light Apparatus was installed at the Dispensary. A total of 254 attendances by 16 patients was made up to 31st December. The cases treated were Lupus, discharging Sinus, Malnutrition, Bronchitis, and by arrangement cases sent from the Infant Welfare Centres, chiefly of Rickets.

It is too short a period on which to base any definite finding as to success, but the results obtained so far are encouraging.

Housing conditions are still very bad.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Cases Visited	107	96	133	108	109
Over-crowding	31 (29%)	31 (32%)	51 (38%)	36 (33%)	47 (43%)
Separate Bedroom	20 (18%)	24 (25%)	26 (20%)	27 (25%)	28 (26%)

Overcrowding meaning conditions where the patient must share his room with two or more other persons.

TUBERCULOSIS—NEW CASES AND MORTALITY 1925.

Age Periods	New Cases*				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulm'y		Pulmonary		Non-Pulm'y.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	2	—	—	3	1	1	1	3
5	1	1	7	2	—	—	4	4
10	—	1	6	3	—	—	—	—
15	1	8	3	5	—	2	1	4
20	2	3	2	1	2	3	—	—
25	6	3	3	1	2	5	1	—
35	11	15	—	—	5	3	—	—
45	12	5	—	—	8	5	—	—
55	5	4	—	—	6	5	—	—
65+	2	1	—	1	4	2	—	—
Totals	42	41	21	16	28	26	7	11
	120				72			

*—Notifications Form A and B, and Supplemental Returns.

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
Notified before Death ...	49	6	55
Not Notified ...	7	10	17
			72

The percentage of Deaths from Tuberculosis not notified before Death is—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Pulmonary ...	—	26	24	15	12
Non-Pulmonary ...	—	21	61	56	64
Total (all forms) ...	39	25	36	26	24

It will be apparent that the cases of Pulmonary Disease not notified are few, the Non-Pulmonary many.

Although the attention of General Practitioners has on previous occasions been drawn to the fact that all forms of Tuberculosis are now notifiable, this is not yet generally acted upon. There is no compulsion for persons notified to attend the Dispensary, and no need to fear that investigations will be made if the Doctor notifying expresses a wish to that effect.

That the percentage of unnotified deaths appears large, may be explained to some extent by honest doubt as to a diagnosis, in some few cases however to neglect or forgetfulness and also to the fact that a careful analysis of the death returns is made at the Dispensary.

The provision of Sanatorium beds although inadequate is widely known, and consequently most cases of Pulmonary disease are notified. No such provision exists for non-pulmonary cases, and when beds are provided for these cases the percentage of non-pulmonary notifications of this type of the disease may confidently be expected to diminish considerably.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS 1925.

No action has been found necessary under these Regulations as no case has been notified or found of any person suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and engaged in the milk trade.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925. SECTION 62.

No action has been taken under this Section during the year compulsorily to remove advanced cases to Hospital where home conditions are unsatisfactory. Very good work in re-arranging to best advantage accommodation at home is done in these cases by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor.

TUBERCULOSIS SCHEMES.

(I) There is one Dispensary situated at 2, Lodge Road, which is as convenient to the centre of the town as may be. The Tuberculosis Officer attends for consultation, examination, and treatment on Tuesday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and Friday afternoons, and a session is also held on Saturday mornings, chiefly for children.

There is not as yet any Sanatorium belonging to the Local Authority. Eight beds are retained at Knightwick Sanatorium chiefly for early and intermediate pulmonary cases, and five beds at Holly Lane Sanatorium, Smethwick, chiefly for more advanced Pulmonary Cases.

In addition cases have been sent to Hallam Hospital, West Bromwich, usually advanced pulmonary or early cases to await admission to Sanatorium. The number of beds available is distinctly less than is necessary for the Borough.

There is no provision for non-pulmonary cases, extra beds in various Institutions being taken for the purpose.

Advanced cases treated at home, generally after a period of Hospital treatment, are visited regularly by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and treated by their own doctor.

(II) The Medical Officer of Health is Chief Tuberculosis Officer and all arrangements made in connection with Tuberculosis are made with his knowledge and consent, and with the sanction of the Sanitary Committee, the Tuberculosis Committee being a Sub-Committee of this Committee.

(III) As already mentioned full use is made of the accommodation at Hallam Hospital for advanced Pulmonary cases. The local District Hospital and Hallam Hospital also treat non-pulmonary cases, Orthopaedic cases however, are sent to the Orthopaedic Hospital, Birmingham, and for the last three months of the year the Sanitary Committee has undertaken responsibility for payment for necessary in-patient treatment. Cases found at School Medical Inspection, at the School Clinics or at the Infant Welfare Centres are referred to the Dispensary.

(5). In doubtful cases repeated examination and observation is made at the Dispensary. When a bed is available the patient is sent for one month's observation at a Sanatorium. If a diagnosis has not been made the case is kept under observation at the Dispensary often for several months. As a general rule such cases attend regularly.

(6). Home contacts are usually examined periodically at the Dispensary, occasionally at Home, as long as appears necessary.

(7 & 8). No special methods for diagnosis or treatment have been used. Tuberculin has not been used for the last two years.

(9). Dental treatment is not provided by the Local Authority. Cases requiring this are referred either to their own doctor and Approved Society or Local War Pensions Committee, or if of School age to the School Dentist.

(10). The Local District Nursing Association undertakes the nursing of patients at home. For this a Grant of £20 per annum is made by the Sanitary Committee. The number of visits paid to T.B. patients during 1925 was—

			Patients.	Visits Paid.
Surgical	...	...	14	459
Medical	...	...	8	181
			—	—
Total	...	...	22	640
			—	—

(11). No definite scheme exists for the treatment of non-pulmonary cases. Many such cases are not notified and go to the Birmingham Hospitals on their own account. Those who do come under notice are either treated at the Dispensary or referred to the Orthopaedic Hospital, Birmingham, payment or part payment being made by the Sanitary Committee under a temporary scheme as cases arise, for in-patient treatment or apparatus.

During the year there were four such cases for which such treatment was provided by the Local Authority, but obviously this number does not represent those who require such treatment.

A total of 19 non-pulmonary cases were seen at the Dispensary.

(12). No "Care" or "After Care" Committee exists in the Borough. This work is done by the Tuberculosis Visitor, and extra nourishment (milk) provided by the Sanitary Committee or the Guardians through the Tuberculosis Officer. The cost to the Committee for 1925 was £28 : 13 : 0.

(13). As a general rule finding employment for Tuberculous patients has not been successful. Such patients when fit register at the Local Exchange, and where possible, work suitable to their capacity given to them, but owing to the large number of fit men unemployed this is not easy to obtain. A few patients are very reluctant to begin work again. Most of those anxious to work go back again to their original or lighter employment and continue to attend the Dispensary. This has not been attended by disaster the instruction received at the Sanatorium being followed as far as possible in home life.

(14). There are six shelters available for patients. Of these, three have been in continuous use during the year.

(15). The total deaths for the last five years are summarised under the following trades or occupations.

DEATHS.	Total for 5 years.	Percentage.
TUBERCULOSIS (all forms)—		
Children	82	25.9
Housewives (Domestics, etc)	70	22.1
Factory and Light Metal Work	56	17.7
Car Drivers, Labourers, etc.	34	10.7
Ironworkers (heavy trades)	24	7.6
Clerks... ..	12	3.8
Shop Assistants	9	2.8
Coal Industry	9	2.8
Tailors (Shoemakers, etc). ...	6	1.9
Publicans	4	1.3
No Occupation	4	1.3
Butchers (Grocers, etc). ...	2	0.6
Insurance Agents (Travellers, etc).	2	0.6
Painters	2	0.6
School Teachers	1	0.3
	<hr/> 317 <hr/>	<hr/> 100.0 <hr/>

The very high percentage of deaths among women engaged in household duties is somewhat distressing, and emphasizes the need for more Sanatorium accommodation for this class.

(16). As far as can be seen, the best method, for want of any curative agent, is prevention, by more common sense living and feeding, and the provision of more beds for all classes of case, sufficient to enable doubtful or observation cases to be sent away for this purpose. With the limited number of beds (13 for all cases) this is at present almost impossible.

A Summary of the work done is appended in Tabular Form, Tables 1, 2, and 3, being those required by the Ministry of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1925.

NOTIFICATIONS :—	M.	F.	C.	Total.
Pulmonary	33	29	8	70
Other Forms	4	3	25	32
New cases examined (including contacts) ...	54	48	87	189
New cases accepted for treat- ment	31	22	16	69
New cases accepted for observation ...	8	3	28	39
Contacts accepted for obser- vation	10	9	32	51
Cases not accepted for treat- ment	5	14	11	30
Number of old cases re- examined	107	74	103	284
Number of re-attendances ...	646	657	2219	3522
Number of Ultra Violet Light attendances	25	40	189	254
Total number of re-attendances	725	745	2495	3965
NUMBER OF DISCHARGES :—				
CURED—				
Pulmonary	2	4	2	8
Other Forms	—	1	11	12
OBSERVATION—				
Contacts	4	14	37	55
Bronchitis	9	7	26	42
Anaemia	—	4	12	16
Heart	1	—	1	2
Sciatica	1	—	—	1
Rheumatis	—	—	1	1
Congenital Hip	—	—	1	1
Tonsils & Adenoids ...	1	1	3	5
Abscesses (simple) ...	—	—	2	2
Mumps	—	—	1	1
Nervous Debility ...	1	—	—	1
Dyspepsia	2	—	3	5
Malnutrition	2	1	7	10
Pneumonia	—	—	2	2
Left the District	2	2	1	5
Deaths				72
HOME VISITS				
First Visits	44	36	29	109
Re-visits	360	294	366	1020
Home Visits and Consul- tations by T.O.				23

NEW CASES ACCEPTED, ARRANGED PER AGE AND SEX.

	0 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	Total	
Pulmonary—											
Males	—	—	1	—	6	8	9	4	1	29	50
Females	—	—	1	1	6	9	3	1	—	21	
Non-Pulmonary—											
Males	4	2	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	11	19
Females	2	1	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	8	
Observation Pulmonary—											
Males	—	5	4	1	3	1	3	—	—	17	39
Females	3	8	8	—	—	2	1	—	—	22	
Contacts Examined—											
Males	3	7	8	2	3	2	1	2	—	28	51
Females	2	5	7	5	1	3	—	—	—	23	

OCCUPATIONS OF NEW CASES ACCEPTED FOR TREATMENT & OBSERVATION, AND OCCUPATIONS OF DEATHS.

	Treatment	Deaths.		Treatment	Deaths
Children ...	75	19	Clerks ...	3	3
Housewives ...	17	14	Carpenter ...	—	1
Labourers ...	7	9	Gauge Maker ...	—	1
Factory Hands ...	—	5	Road Sweeper ...	—	1
Iron Workers ...	3	4	Nurses ...	2	—
Scale Mechanics ...	—	2	No Occupation	—	1
Motor Mechanic ...	1	1	Baker ...	1	—
Press Workers ...	2	1	Fitters ...	2	—
Plate Layer... ..	—	1	Hairdressers ...	3	—
Shop Assistants ...	4	1	Shell Washer ...	1	—
Publican ...	—	1	Barmaid ...	1	—
Hollowware Turner	1	1	Filer ...	1	—
Candle Makers ...	2	1	Salesman ...	1	—
Glass Furnace Worker	1	1	Welder ...	1	—
Cook... ..	—	1	Rag Man ...	1	—
Spring Maker ...	2	1	Viewer ...	1	—
Roll Turner... ..	1	1	Domestics ...	4	—
Carters ...	2	1	Hook Worker ...	1	—
Brazier ...	1	—	Screw Maker ...	1	—
Steel Workers ...	4	—	Dye Caster ...	1	—
Motor Seat Finishers	2	—	Stoker ...	1	—
Binder ...	1	—	Artisan ...	1	—
Painters ...	2	—	Bottle Blower ...	1	—
Analytical Chemist	1	—	Assembler ...	1	—
Tool Maker ...	1	—			

HOME CONDITIONS OF NEW CASES (VISITED FOR 1st TIME).

Dirty	Fairly Clean.	Clean.	Moderate Light.	Good Light.	Damp.	Close.
23	24	62	28	81	10	15
Through Ventilation.	Back to back.		Defective Windows.	Windows open Day and Night		
86	22		10	66		
	Windows open Day only.		Overcrowding.			
	15		24			

SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS.

Separate Bed-rooms	Separate Bed, but others in Room.					Others in Bed.				
	Number in Room.									
28	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Cases	2	5	8	3	10	32	16	4	1	—

SIZES OF HOUSES VISITED.

NUMBER OF ROOMS IN HOUSE.

1	2	3	4	5	6	Over 6.
—	2	22	42	13	22	8
Cases						

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH.

TABLE I.

ANNUAL RETURN SHOWING THE WORK OF THE DISPENSARY DURING
THE YEAR 1925.

Diagnosis.	Pulmonary				Non-pulmonary				Total			
	Adults		Children		Adults		Children		Adults		Children	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
A. New cases examined during the year (excluding contacts)												
(a) Definitely Tuberculous ...	28	20	1	1	3	2	8	6	31	22	9	7
(b) Doubtfully Tuberculous ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	3	9	19
(c) Non-tuberc'l's ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	14	7	4
B. Contacts examined during the year:												
(a) Definitely Tuberculous ...	1	3	1	—	1	—	1	1	2	3	2	1
(b) Doubtfully Tuberculous ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	6	16	13
(c) Non-tuberc'l's ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
C. Cases written off the Dispensary Register as												
(a) Cured ...	2	4	1	1	—	1	6	5	2	5	7	6
(b) Diagnosis not confirmed or non-tuberc'l's (including cancellation of cases notified in error) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	27	43	53
D. Number of cases on Dispensary Register on Dec. 31												
(a) Diagnosis completed ...	61	43	3	7	4	7	17	25	65	50	20	32
(b) Diagnosis not completed ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	13	36	36

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1. Number of persons on Dispensary Register on Jan. 1st ... 314</p> <p>2. Number of patients transferred from other areas and "lost sight of" cases returned ... 5</p> <p>3. Number of patients transferred to other areas and "lost sight of" ... 5</p> <p>4. Died during the year 72</p> <p>5. Number of Observation cases under A (b) and B. (b) above in which period of observation exceeded two months ... 82</p> <p>6. Number of attendances at the Dispensary (including contacts) ... 3965</p> <p>7. Number of attendances of non-pulmonary cases at Orthopaedic Outstations for treatment or supervision 144 (approx)</p> <p>8. Number of attendances at General Hospitals or other Institut'ns approved for the purpose of patients for—
 (a) "Light" treatment ... 520
 (b) Other special forms of treatment ... 36</p> | <p>9. Number of patients to whom Dental Treatment was given at or in connection with the Dispensary ... 12 (approx)</p> <p>10. Number of consultations with Medical Practitioners—
 (a) At homes of Applicants ... 8
 (b) Otherwise ... —</p> <p>11. Number of other visits by Tuberculosis Officers to Homes ... 20</p> <p>12. Number of visits by Nurses or Health Visitors to Homes for Dispensary purposes ... 1129</p> <p>13. Number of
 (a) Specimens of Sputum, etc., examined ... 261
 (b) X-ray examinations made in connection with Dispensary work 9</p> <p>14. Number of Insured persons on Dispensary Register on the 31st Dec. ... 103</p> <p>15. Number of Insured persons under Domiciliary treatment 31st Dec. ... 16</p> <p>16. Number of reports received during the year in respect of Insured Persons—
 (a) Form G.P. 17... —
 (b) Form G.P. 36... 40</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

TABLE II.

RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTIONS.

A. AVERAGE NUMBER OF BEDS AVAILABLE FOR PATIENTS DURING THE YEAR 1925.

	Obs'rvation	Pulmonary Tub'rculosis		N'n- Pulm'y Tub'rculosis	Other Conditions	Total
		Sanatorium Beds	Hospital Beds	Disease of Bones and Joints.		
Adult Males ...	nil	8	nil	nil	nil	8
Adult Females	nil	5	nil	nil	nil	5
Children under 15 ...	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Total ...	—	13	—	—	—	13

B. ANNUAL RETURN SHOWING THE EXTENT OF RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT DURING THE YEAR 1925.

		In Institutions on Jan. 1.	Admitted during the year	Disch'rg'd during the year	Died in the In- stitutions	In Insti- tutions Dec, 31.
Number of Patients	Adults	M. 6	25	24	2	5
		F. 4	13	9	2	6
	Children	M. 1	1	1	—	1
		F. 1	4	4	—	1
Number of Observation cases	Adults	M. —	5	5	—	—
		F. 1	—	1	—	—
	Children	M. —	1	1	—	—
		F. —	1	—	—	1
Total		13	50	45	4	14

TABLE III.

ANNUAL RETURN SHOWING THE IMMEDIATE RESULTS OF TREATMENT OF PATIENTS AND OF OBSERVATION OF DOUBTFUL CASES DISCHARGED FROM RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1925.

Duration of Residential Treatment in the Institution

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.															Total
Classification on admission to Institution	Class T.B. Minus.	Condition at time of Discharge.	Under 3 months			3-6 months.			6-12 months.			More than 12 months.			
			M.	F.	Ch	M.	F.	Ch	M.	F.	Ch	M.	F.	Ch	
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Class T.B. Plus Group 1.	Quiescent Improved Died in Institution	2		1	1	2							6	
		Quiescent Improved No material improvement Died in Institution	1			1 1								1 1 1	
		Quiescent Improved No material Improvement Died in Institution													
	Class T.B. plus Group 2.	Quiescent Improved No material Improvement Died in Institution	2 1			9 1	1 1	1						13 3	
		Quiescent Improved No material Improvement Died in Institution	1			3								4	
		Quiescent Improved No material Improvement Died in Institution		1		1	3		1					6	
	Class T.B Plus Group 3.	Quiescent Improved No material Improvement Died in Institution	2	2										4	
		Quiescent Improved No material Improvement Died in Institution													
		Quiescent Improved No material Improvement Died in Institution													
	Bones and Joints.	Quiescent or arrested Improved No material Improvement Died in Institutions											1	1	
		Quiescent or arrested Improved No material Improvement Died in Institutions													
		Quiescent or arrested Improved No material Improvement Died in Institutions													

Duration of Residential Treatment in the Institution.

[illegible]

Observation for purpose of Diagnosis.	Under 1 week.			1-2 weeks			2-4 weeks			More than 4 weeks			Total
	M.	F.	Ch	M.	F.	Ch	M.	F.	Ch	M.	F.	Ch	
Tuberc'l's													
Non-tuber- culous							2			2	1	1	6
Doubtful										1			1

Maternity and Child Welfare.

(1) INSPECTION OF MIDWIVES.—A quarterly inspection of all Midwives practising in the area is made by the Inspector of Midwives, and also special inspections when considered necessary. Three Bona-fide Midwives were voluntarily removed from the Register of the C.M.B. on account of ill-health or inability to continue to practise in accordance with the Rules. A few Lectures to Midwives have been given but no systematic course of instruction has been established.

The following is a classification of Records received under Rule E.22 of the Central Midwives Board, *i.e.*, Records of sending for Medical Aid.—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Percentage of Total Births attended by Midwives... ..	92.7	92.5	90.4	91.4	90.1
Records under Rule E.22 ...	9.5	7.4	9.5	12.9	13.9

1925.				Total.
E.22 (1) (a)	Medical Help—Mothers			
	Prolonged Labour ...	...	69	
	Malpresentation ...	...	14	
	Lacerated Perineum ...	...	53	
	Post Partum Haemorrhage		7	
	Adherent Placenta & Retained Membranes ...	...	6	
	Rise of Temperature...	...	11	
	Illness of Mother ...	...	17	
	Puerperal Insanity ...	...	1	
	Miscariage ...	...	4	
	Placenta Praevia ...	...	2	
	Contracted Pelvis ...	...	1	
	Antepartum Haemorrhage		5	
	Premature Labour ...	...	1	
	Prelapse of Cord ...	...	3	
	Multiple Pregnancy ...	...	1	
			—	195
	Babies			
	Feeble Baby ...	...	22	
	Deformities ...	...	3	
	Other Causes ...	...	20	
			—	45

(b)	Deaths	Mothers ...	...	2	
		Babies ...	...	12	
(c)	Stillbirths	...	...	29	
(d)	Laying out the Dead	...	...	1	
(e)	Liability to be a source of infection			2	
(f)	Artificial Feeding	...	...	9	
(g)	Inflammation of Eyes	...	...	7	
				—	62
(2)	Change of Address	...	...	2	2
					—
			Total	...	304
					—

As will be seen from the following Tables, a very considerable amount of work is done by the Health Visitors in the homes of the people, and mothers and expectant mothers are encouraged to attend the Centres for advice, weighing of infants, and discussion of matters which concern their well-being. Dried Milk, and Cod Liver Oil are sold at the Centres, and, in special circumstances given free.

There are Four Centres in the Borough, and a Medical Officer attends at each, one afternoon every week. Only minor ailments are treated (chiefly digestive), more serious illness being referred to Hospital or own doctor.

An Ultra Violet Light Apparatus at the Tuberculosis Dispensary is used by Infants from the Centres, by arrangement. This was commenced in October, and the results, although not large enough to classify, have been very encouraging.

There are no Hospitals, Maternity Homes, or other Institutions belonging to the Local Authority for dealing with expectant and nursing mothers and young children. These are dealt with at Hallam Hospital (Guardians) or at special Hospitals in Birmingham

INFANT DEATHS.—A Summary of the chief causes of Infants Deaths for the past five years show the following:—

		1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total
Infectious Disease	...	13	13	7	10	11	54
Tuberculosis and							
Meningitis	... ..	10	—	6	1	5	22
Bronchitis & Pneumonia...		33	61	39	58	54	245
Convulsions and Intestinal							
Disease	... ..	39	16	28	17	39	139
Injury at Birth, Premature							
Birth, etc.	... ..	86	69	71	76	64	366
Other Causes	... ..	25	12	13	3	7	60
DEATHS—							
Under 1 Month	... ..	103	79	67	75	57	
Under 1 Year	... ..	209	172	164	165	180	
Infantile Mortality—Total		97	89	88	89	99	
Infantile Mortality—under							
1 Month	... ..	48	39	36	40	31	

The Infantile Mortality Rate is greater for 1925 than since 1921, but the proportion of deaths under 1 month considerably less. It is regrettable that of the total deaths under 1 year of age, from a half to one-third occurred before the infant is one month old.

TOTAL BIRTHS & DEATHS (UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE) IN EACH
WARD IN THE BOROUGH, FOR 5 YEARS, 1921—1925.

WARD.		Population Cen., 1921.	Births.	Deaths.	Birth Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate.	Persons per acre Cen., 1921.	Rooms per person Cen., 1921
Spon Lane	...	8975	1486	93	33.1	62.5	30.8	0.85
Lyndon ...	...	6195	1301	74	42.0	56.8	3.3	0.90
Tantany	...	10138	1151	135	22.7	116.4	35.2	0.91
Town Hall	...	9321	1142	91	24.5	79.7	38.5	0.98
Hill Top	...	10180	1512	144	29.7	95.2	11.9	0.78
Greets Green	...	10330	1153	163	22.2	141.3	17.2	0.76
Sandwell	...	7172	601	48	16.8	79.8	5.7	1.11
Lyng ...	...	11336	1383	142	24.4	102.6	27.8	0.86

The Average Birth Rate being 26.4. The Average Infantile Mortality Rate being 91.5.

Lyndon Ward over the whole period is unique in having the highest Birth Rate and the lowest Infantile Mortality Rate. It is interesting to note also that the "persons per acre," is the smallest. Spon Lane comes next, although "persons per acre," is nine times greater.

INFANT MORTALITY 1925.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under
1 Year of Age.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 3 months	3 months & under 6 months	6 months & under 9 months	9 months & under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All Causes—Certified ...	33	11	5	5	54	39	23	29	28	173
All Causes—Uncertified ...	3	...	...	...	3	...	2	...	2	7
Pemphigus Neonatorum ...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	6
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	2	4
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Abdominal Tuberculosis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	4
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions ...	3	...	...	...	3	1	3	...	3	10
Laryngitis... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis ...	1	...	...	2	3	6	2	7	3	21
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	1	...	2	3	9	7	7	7	33
Diarrhoea ...	...	...	1	...	1	7	10	7	4	29
Enteritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Suffocation, overlying ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Injury at Birth ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Atelectasis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Malformations ...	1	1	...	...	2	1	...	1	...	4
Premature Birth ...	27	8	2	...	37	6	1	1	1	46
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ...	1	...	...	...	1	5	1	3	2	12
Other Causes ...	2	1	...	1	4	1	...	1	...	6
Totals ...	36	11	5	5	57	39	25	29	30	180
Illegitimate ...	2	...	1	...	3	3	3	1	...	10

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES SINCE FIRST RECORDED

Year	Rate	Year	Rate	Year	Rate
1872	152	1882	158	1892	171
1873	163	1883	177	1893	211
1874	156	1884	180	1894	152
1875	160	1885	176	1895	157
1876	144	1886	169	1896	118
1877	162	1887	158	1897	175
1878	159	1888	158	1898	182
1879	167	1889	175	1899	179
1880	152	1890	170	1900	191
1881	152	1891	172	1901	163
Decennial Aver. 156.7		Decennial Aver. 169.3		Decennial Aver. 169.9	
1902	162	1912	122.5	1922	88.6
1903	164	1913	140.4	1923	87.8
1904	149	1914	104.4	1924	88.6
1905	150	1915	133.1	1925	98.8
1906	159	1916	89.8		
1907	151	1917	121.5		
1908	140	1918	113.1		
1909	152	1919	103.0		
1910	106.5	1920	109.2		
1911	139.5	1921	96.9		
Decennial Aver. 147.3		Decennial Aver. 113.3			

Ante-natal work is being actively carried on at the Centres and consists of advice in personal hygiene affecting mother and child, examination and pelvimetry and periodic examination of Urine, the number of new cases being :—

1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
<hr/> 38	<hr/> 43	<hr/> 51	<hr/> 180	<hr/> 243

A Consultant Gynaecologist is attached to Hallam Hospital, a provision which deserves to be better known and utilised.

Apart from Ante-natal work at the Centres there appears no reason why the midwives and doctors in their private practise should not make routine examination of Urine and satisfy themselves when a case is booked or before confinement, that conditions are normal. Some of them undoubtedly do this, and both patient and midwife benefit.

This is an aspect of Ante-natal work which should be encouraged.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT.—No definite scheme exists for this work, cases being dealt with as they arise, the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee paying part or the whole of the cost of treatment at the Orthopaedic Hospital, Birmingham.

There is no Voluntary Society as such in the Borough for Maternity and Child Welfare Work. Many voluntary workers however help at the Centres, and to every one, on behalf of the mothers and children, I wish to express my appreciation and thanks for the work they have done and are doing. Without this help the work at the Centres would be well nigh impossible.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—In each case notified investigation is made concerning the circumstances.

The figures relating to this disease are as follows :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Notifications	2	10	3	6	8
Removed to Hospital	—	7	2	4	4
Deaths (Sepsis)	4	7	—	2	5
Total Births	2156	2018	1866	1862	1821
Mortality per 1,000 Births ...	1.86	3.47	Nil	1.07	2.74

Hospital accommodation is available at Hallam Hospital, to which a Consultant Gynaecologist is attached. The numbers dealt with are too small to base any opinion as to cause or predisposing conditions. In no case during 1923, 1924, or 1925 was Venereal Disease present. In 1922, two cases Venereal Disease present.

PEMPHIGUS NEONATORUM.—A small outbreak of this Disease occurred in September, 1925, all the cases being attended by the same midwife. There were five cases in all. Two were removed to the Borough Hospital; one of which died. The midwife in question was suspended for two weeks, and all clothes and instruments disinfected. There were no further cases.

WHOOPING COUGH.—This disease has not been specially prevalent during the year as indicated by School returns:—

				1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
1st Quarter	...	...	...	No Records	248	8	48	83
2nd Quarter	...	...	...	No Records	107	6	12	104
3rd Quarter	...	...	...	No Records	9	19	23	25
4th Quarter	...	...	...	No Records	17	34	3	25
Totals				—	381	67	85	237
Deaths under 1 Year	...	...	...	Nil	13	Nil	7	4
Deaths under 5 Years	...	...	...	3	29	2	14	14

EPIDEMIC DIARRHOEA.—This disease cannot be said to have been epidemic during the last five years, the deaths recorded being largely due to faulty feeding and not to the "British Cholera," or true Epidemic Diarrhoea which was so fatal and prevalent in 1911.

				1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Deaths under 1 Year	...	...	...	36	9	19	12	30
Deaths under 5 Years	...	...	...	45	11	29	15	37

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—

				1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Notifications	...	...	...	4	2	—	4	5
Treated at Home (District Nurse)				3	2	—	1	3
Treated at Hospital (In-patients)				—	—	—	3	2
Vision unimpaired	...	...	...	2	2	—	4	5
Vision impaired	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—
Total Blindness	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Cases not notified, but treated by								
District Nurses	...	No record			20	44	45	

There were no deaths attributable to this disease.

In addition to these notifications—cases which were severe enough to be considered Ophthalmia Neonatorum, the District Nurses visited a much larger number of cases reported to them by the Health Visitors of slight inflammation in children under five.

All midwives are now supplied by the Local Supervising Authority with Collosol Argentum and a Dropper Bottle and the child's eyes are treated with this antiseptic immediately the head is born. The results appear very satisfactory.

Cases.			Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired	Total Blind- ness	D'ths
Notified	Treated					
	At Home	Hospital				
5	3	2	5	Nil	Nil	Nil

MEASLES has been very prevalent during the year, especially from April to June. This disease is not notifiable, but a fair estimate of its prevalence is obtained from School returns, which are as follows :—

				1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
1st Quarter	...	...	...	No Records	12	474	56	32
2nd Quarter	...	...	...		8	60	101	1089
3rd Quarter	...	...	...		22	1	60	436
4th Quarter	...	...	...		203	7	8	62
Totals	...	...	...	—	245	542	225	1619
Deaths under 1 Year	...	...	9	1	7	Nil	6	
Deaths under 5 Years	...	...	30	5	37	7	27	

BABY WEEK.

This was held in September, but on a much smaller scale than last year, when West Bromwich and Hull were each awarded the Astor Banner to be held permanently, and were second only to Leicester, which was awarded the Astor Challenge Shield, won by West Bromwich in 1923-4.

The preliminary judging was done by Dr. Stocks, the final judging by Dr. Blaker, M.O.H., Dudley, Dr. Haller, Wolverhampton and Miss Carter, Superintendent Health Visitor, Wolverhampton, assisted by the Local Health Staff.

The Championship Cup presented by the Mayoress (Councillor Mrs. Grace Cottrell) to the best Baby in the Town was won by Muriel Orbell, and a smaller Cup was awarded to the Champion of each of the Five Centres (one Centre is a voluntary one). For these the Committee are indebted to the generosity of Miss J. Smallman (Mrs. Millward), Miss K. Shorthouse, Mr. H. Siddons, Mr. C. Darby, and Mr. J. Samuel.

The following Tables summarise the work done during the year.—

ANALYSIS OF INFANT DEATHS—1925.

DEATHS—

Under 1 Month	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Under 1 Year	...	...	...	...	...	...	180
Over 1 and under 2 Years	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Over 2 and under 5 Years	...	...	...	...	...	...	41

INVESTIGATED—

Under 1 Month	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Under 1 Year	...	...	...	...	...	...	110
1-2 Years	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
2-5 Years	...	...	...	...	...	...	33

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS—

Feeding—(Deaths up to 1 Year)

Died before Feeding	...	...	...	...	...	19
Breast Fed	...	...	...	...	...	110
Breast and Bottle Fed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Spoon and Bottle Fed	...	...	...	...	...	19
Breast and Biscuit Fed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Not necessary to visit at Birth but investigated at death	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premature (Deaths under 5 Years)	...	...	...	...	...	32
Weakly at Birth	„	„	...	...	...	66
Illegitimate	„	„	...	...	...	13
Dirty Houses	„	„	...	...	...	33
Mothers Working	....	„	...	...	...	2

HEALTH VISITORS.

ROUTINE WORK OF INVESTIGATIONS UNDER THE NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.

No. of Notifications of Births Received	...	...	...	...	...	1904
Notified by Midwives	...	...	...	...	...	1719
Notified by Doctors and Parents	...	...	...	...	...	185
Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	1838
Still-Births	...	...	...	...	...	66
Births not Notified or Notified late	...	...	...	...	...	46
No. Investigated	...	...	...	...	...	1682

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS—1925.

INFANTS—FEEDING.

Breast Fed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1510
Spoon or Bottle Fed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Breast and Bottle Fed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Breast and Spoon Fed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Died before Feeding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Supplementary Sop Feeding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Prematurely Born	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Healthy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1506
Fairly Healthy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Unhealthy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35

PARENTS.

Mothers Unhealthy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Mothers Died	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fathers Unhealthy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Fathers Died	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
No. of Dirty Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	85
Mothers Working	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18

STILL-BIRTHS.

No. Notified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
No. Investigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
No. not Investigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	*8

*—Exclusive of 4 in the Infirmary.

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS.

PARENTS.

Mothers Unhealthy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Fathers Unhealthy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Mothers Died	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fathers Died	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Dirty Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Mothers Working	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

INFANTS.

Prematurely Born	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Triplets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

1st Pregnancy

Ages of Mothers 21 to 36	15
--------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

— 15

2nd Pregnancy

Ages of Mothers 23 to 34

1st Still-Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Both „	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
								10

3rd Pregnancy

Ages of Mothers 23 to 43

1st Still-Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
2nd „	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
								7

4th and 5th Pregnancy

Ages of Mothers 26 to 40

1st Still-Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
2nd „	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
3rd „	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
								7

6th to 8th Pregnancy

Ages of Mothers 34 to 42

1st Still-Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
2nd „	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
								10

9 to 14th Pregnancy

Ages of Mothers 35 to 41

1st Still-Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
3rd „	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
6th „	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
								5

Totals ... 54

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF WORK OF INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

1.—STATISTICS OF DISTRICT—1925.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	5,860 acres
Population—Census 1921	...	...	...	...	...	73647
Mid. 1925	...	...	...	...	...	79490
Births	...	...	...	...	...	1821
Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	22.9
Deaths under 1 Year	...	...	...	...	...	180
Infant Deaths per 1,000 Births	...	...	...	...	...	98.8
Death Rate among those attending Centre (under 5 Years)						41.3
						per 1,000

DEATHS.—Children under 5 Years attending Centres.

AGE DISTRIBUTION.				CAUSES OF DEATH.			
Under 1 Month	...	...	—	Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	1
1-3 months	...	...	2	Bronchitis	...	...	1
3-6 months	...	...	6	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	19
6-9 months	...	...	6	Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	8
9-12 months	...	...	4	Atrophy, Debility and			
1-2 Years	...	...	15	Marasmus	...	...	2
2-5 Years	...	...	8	Pertussis	...	...	2
			—	Epilepsy	...	...	1
	Total ¹	...	41	Shock as result of Scalds	...	...	2
			—	Scarlet Fever	...	...	1
				Nephritis	...	...	1
				Convulsions	...	...	2
				Hydrocephalus	...	...	1
							—
					Total	...	41

			1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Total Births (R.G.)	...	...	2156	2018	1866	1862	1821
New Cases attending Centres under 1 Year	...	...	901	646	693	760	606
Firsts Visits of Health Visitors (number investigated)	...	...	1409	*2054	1812	1727	1682
Live Births Notified	...	...	2115	1927	1894	1887	1838
Percentage of Live Births attending the Centres	...	...	43	34	37	40	33
Percentage of Live Births visited (First Visits)	...	...	67	87	96	92	92

*—Including 381 from 1921.

ANALYSIS OF VISITS—1925.

STAFF VISITS.

Expectant Mothers	...	...	...	...	...	...	246
Under Notification of Births Act,	1st Visits	...	...	...	...	...	1764
	Other Visits	...	...	...	...	...	9321
							11331
Intectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	1036
Midwives	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	*259
Investigations of Relief	...	...	...	...	...	...	797
						Total	... 13490

*—Including 37 Visits re Maternity Fees.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

MISS HAZEL AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Twenty-seventh Annual Report on the work of my Department.

No changes have taken place in either the Inspectorial Staff or the Clerical Staff during the past year, and it gives me great pleasure to be able to testify to the loyal co-operation of the District Inspectors, Messrs. Lyon, Foakes and Shaw, and the Office Staff throughout the twelve months.

The total number of inspections of all classes was 30,929.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.**HOUSE-TO-HOUSE INSPECTIONS.**

During the past year the usual systematic inspections required by the Housing (Inspection of Districts) Regulations, 1910, were undertaken.

In District 1 the area selected was one bounded by Halford's Lane, the South side of Birmingham Road, the South-west side of High Street to Trinity Road, and the East side of Trinity Road to the Great Western Railway. In District 2 the Great Bridge portions of Greets Green and Hill Top Wards were inspected, including also Fisher Street, Slater Street, the North side of Sheepwash Lane and houses on the West side of Whitehall Road between Sheepwash Lane and Great Bridge.

In these Districts the majority of the residences inspected were of a relatively modern and fair type.

In District 3 the systematic survey included houses situated in an area comprising the Western side of Holloway Bank, the Western side of Hill Top from Barrack Street, New Street, and the Great Western Railway, and the East side of Holloway Bank from the Borough Boundary to the Canal Bridge together with Globe Street.

In this District the houses generally were of a poorer type than those in Districts 1 and 2, including as they did two areas which have been represented as unhealthy.

In all 1,527 houses in 34 streets were examined in detail.

Full details of the inspections with respect to each District are given in Table 2.

From these it will be noted that of the 1,527 houses, 1,440 were of the working class type, and that 87 were business premises or houses of superior type.

One thousand, twelve hundred and forty-three houses were of the through type, and 284 of the "single" or back-to-back varieties. Thirty-five houses had a single bedroom only, 805 two bedrooms, and 687 three or more bedrooms. The estimated population was 7,559 or an average of five persons per house approximately.

One hundred and sixteen or 7.6 per cent had more than two inmates per room and were therefore deemed to be overcrowded on the Registrar General's basis.

In 237 instances or 15.5 per cent there were two or more families residing in houses intended for the use of one family only. This percentage of two or more family occupation is higher than the figures ascertained as a result of the house to house inspections made in the three previous years.

In District 3 where the houses generally were of a small and poor type the percentage of this two or more family occupation was 17.6.

In some parts of the areas examined the cases of overcrowding and two or more family occupations are even more disquieting.

In Roebuck Street, 128 houses were inspected. Of these 38 were of the "single" or back-to-back type.

The total population was 790 or 6.3 per house, 22 houses or 17.2 per cent were overcrowded and there were 36 cases or 28.1 per cent of two or more family occupation.

Two further instances occurring in New Street, Hill Top may also be quoted :—The first relates to a block of sixteen back-to-back houses concerning which Closing Orders have for a considerable period been operative. These houses each consist of living room and two bedrooms, the second bedroom being an attic lighted only by a roof light. The total population was 119 or 7.4 persons per house, 11 houses were overcrowded and five had two or more families residing therein.

The second case is that of eight small four roomed cottages. Here the population was 52 or 6.5 per house, and in six instances two or more families were living in one house.

Sixty-nine of the 1,527 houses examined were scheduled as unfit for habitation ; 213 as falling below a reasonable standard of fitness ; 200 were in a seriously defective state of repair ; and in 459 cases cleansing and repairs of minor character were necessary. In 586 instances or 38.4 per cent, the houses were in a fair or good state of repair.

The results of these examinations were entered on the cards provided and intimation notices given to owners or occupiers of unsatisfactory conditions ascertained and in a considerable proportion of the cases defects have already been remedied.

As the majority of the houses which formed the subject of last year's survey were previously examined in 1919 just after the termination of the War, I have instituted a comparison between the results of inspection of identical houses in the two years.

In my Annual Report for that year, I stated that the outstanding feature of the systematic inspections was the evidence revealed as to the striking deterioration which had occurred during the period of the War, the proportion of unfit or seriously defective houses being higher than on any previous occasion. It is therefore gratifying to find from the reports made last year, and also from the considered opinion of the District Inspectors that not only has this progressive deterioration been arrested but that owing largely to the continuous pressure exerted by the department during the interval the general state of repair of dwellings is much more satisfactory in character.

A fairly large number of houses which in 1919 were absolutely unfit have been rendered temporary habitable, the respective percentages of unfit houses for 1919 and 1925 being 11.6 and 4.5. The percentage of seriously defective houses has fallen from 25.4 to 13.1, whilst the percentage of fair or good houses has risen from 21.5 to 38.4. This is all the more satisfactory in view of the circumstance that the houses compared include so many of an old and poor type in which constant repair work is essential.

Whilst, however, progress in matters for which you are directly responsible is to be reported, it cannot be said that the evils associated with the housing shortage in so far as the houses examined in 1919 and 1925 are concerned have in any degree been lessened.

The population in the houses compared has increased, the number of persons per house being 4.9 as compared with 4.7; overcrowding is more prevalent, and there has been an increase of 50 per cent in the number of houses occupied by members of more than one family.

The only further point arising out of the comparison to which I need direct your attention is the increase in the number of owner occupiers in the Burlington Road area of District 1.

MISCELLANEOUS INSPECTIONS.

Under this heading are included not only investigations of complaints received which are always tending to increase, but the systematic visits to court yards where sanitary and other conveniences are used in common, and where constant supervision is required to prevent grave nuisances arising.

The total number of such miscellaneous inspections made during the year was 11,234.

NOTICES SERVED AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS INSTITUTED.

Two thousand, four hundred preliminary notices relating to 6,112 houses were served, the number of re-inspections being 10,363.

In accordance with your instructions 887 Statutory Notices were served. Of such formal notices 809 were issued under the Public Health Acts, 71 under the Housing Acts, and 7 under our Local Acts.

Seven summonses were issued for non-compliance with notices to abate Nuisances.

In five cases the work was completed either before the hearing or after adjournments had been granted, when the Summonses were withdrawn on payment of costs, and in the two remaining cases which were heard at the close of the year, an adjournment was granted to enable defendant to execute the work.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.

The total number of nuisances abated as a result of notices served was 9,017.

The number of sanitary improvements was 8,784.

One thousand, three hundred and thirty houses were cleansed, whitewashed, distempered or re-papered; repairs to the internal woodwork, plastering or brickwork of 1,343 houses being also effected.

Nine hundred and sixty-six roofs were made weathertight ; defective spouting was renewed or repaired in 789 instances ; whilst external brickwork was re-pointed or covered with an impervious coating in 304 instances. 844 wash-houses, etc. were limewashed or repaired ; 264 brick sinks were repaired or replaced with earthenware sinks, and 69 dangerous wells or disused rain water cisterns were filled in or made safe.

Four privies were converted into water-closets ; 26 insanitary dry ashpits were abolished and galvanised ashbins substituted. 1,027 new ashbins were provided to replace worn out ones, and of these we supplied 29 in default of compliance with notice.

Overcrowding of houses shows no sign of improvement and a not inconsiderable portion of the time I spend in the office is taken in interviewing sub-tenants complaining of the distressing conditions under which they are living. Not only is the shortage of houses consequent on the War not being overtaken, but the demands of the increasing population are not being met. At the census of 1921 the ascertained population of the Borough was 73,761. At the middle of 1924 the estimated population was 78,730, or an increase of 4,969. Taking an average of five persons per house, 994 additional houses should have been provided.

The actual number of new houses erected during the period was 539, leaving a deficiency of 455 for the three years. Under these circumstances it appears to be worse than futile to put into operation our powers relating to overcrowding.

The following are a few of the cases which have been brought under our notice during the year :—

In one bedroom measuring 1,068 cubic feet, there were sleeping man, wife and six children, whose ages ranged from 17 to 21.

Bed sitting room occupied for living and sleeping purposes by man, wife and five children.

Three families comprising 14 persons occupied a house with two bedrooms.

Back-to-back house with single bedroom occupied by widow and sub-tenants, consisting of man, wife, with son 18, and daughters aged 25, 23, 20 and 13.

House with single bedroom occupied by man, wife and five children, sons aged 20 and 17, and daughters aged 23, 25 and 12.

House with single bedroom occupied by man, wife and five children.

Bed sitting room occupied for living and sleeping purposes by man, wife and five children, the latter all sleeping in one bed.

Two hundred and Seventy-one intimation notices were addressed to occupiers with respect to the filthy condition of sanitary conveniences, the improper keeping of animals, etc.

WORK UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS.

Housing deficiency has rendered imperative a policy of marking time not only with respect to overcrowding but also as regards any serious attempt to deal with houses which under normal conditions would form the subject of Closing Orders. Two Closing Orders only have been made during the year, one in which the house was rendered unsafe owing to mining operations, the other relating to a derelict house which was a source of danger to the occupant of adjoining property. One Demolition Order was made, and the house was in course of demolition at the end of the year. It may be of interest to add that there are in the Borough at the present moment 132 houses all with two exceptions occupied in respect of which Closing Orders are operative, 41 Demolition Orders also being operative as regards such houses.

To avoid misapprehension I should mention that in certain cases repairs have been undertaken by owners.

Seventy-one Statutory Notices relating to 123 houses have been served under the Repair Section of the Housing Act, requiring owners to make dwelling houses in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.

In 10 instances specifications were drafted and tenders obtained for the necessary repairs in default, but in five instances only was the work actually carried out by our own contractors, the total amount expended being £236 : 0 : 0.

INSPECTION OF SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND FOOD SUPPLY.

Prior to the new Meat Regulations coming into operation on April 1st, notice of their relevant features was given in the public press. In addition I forwarded a full copy of the Regulations to occupiers of Slaughterhouses together with a covering letter requesting their co-operation in carrying out the provisions of the new requirements.

Subsequently at the request of the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Lyon attended a meeting of the local Meat Traders, Association and explained the purport of the Regulations in detail. Generally speaking a desire has been manifested on the part of all concerned that the Regulations should be complied with.

Owing to a misunderstanding the stipulation as to notifying usual hours of slaughter was interpreted by some Meat Traders to signify that all that was necessary was to state that slaughtering might take place between sunset and sunrise on practically every day in the week. This difficulty was soon cleared up however and the notices were amended so as to conform more accurately with actual practice.

Although no serious contravention of these provisions has taken place, the administration of the Regulations has necessarily imposed additional work upon the Department.

Two hundred and fifty-nine notices of intention to slaughter pigs were received from cottagers, and there were four cases of Emergency Slaughter, three being at a farm.

Mr. Lyon (the Meat Inspector) reports that 1,397 visits were paid to slaughterhouses, and 2,971 visits to butchers' shops. He examined 1,407 live animals, 1,609 sides and 1,521 quarters of beef, and the carcases of 1,809 calves, sheep, lambs, or pigs.

Twenty four cases of localised, and one of generalised Tuberculosis were discovered, notice of which had in every instance been given to the Meat Inspectors' by the tradesmen concerned and the affected portions subsequently destroyed.

The following is a list of the Foodstuffs surrendered or destroyed

					lbs.				
Fish	...	...	...	...	280				
Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	228				
Eggs	...	...	...	...	210				
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	30				
					620	=	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
							6	2	20
Unsound or diseased meat—									
Beef	...	...	...	...	1626				
Pork	...	...	...	...	195				
					1821	=	16	1	1

or 1 ton, 2 cwts., 3 qrs., and 21-lbs. in all.

The number of Condemnation Orders made was eight.

A licence was granted for a new slaughterhouse for killing pigs.

There are at present 20 slaughterhouses on the Register of which 12 are subject to an Annual Licence.

Seven hundred and twenty-eight visits were paid to Fishmongers and Greengrocers shops.

THE INSPECTION OF WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES.

The number of workshops and workshop and factory bakehouses on the Register at the end of the year was 180. Circular letters respecting the periodical lime-washing of bakehouses were despatched twice during the year, and the premises subsequently visited. On the suggestion of H.M. Inspector of Factories, I made special enquiries as to the prevalence or otherwise of Bakers Dermatitis among the operatives. At the time when I made my visits there was no evidence that any of our bakers were then suffering from the complaint. I went into the question with a few operatives who had been attacked previously, but could not discover that there was any common circumstance likely to have brought on the disease.

Great differences of opinion appeared to exist in the trade as to the probable cause of the trouble, but it is certain that a single case only may occur among men working under identical conditions.

Twelve notices were received from the Home Office, eight having reference to sanitary conveniences for workpeople at factories, three with respect to the lime-washing of workshops or bakehouses. Most of these matters received attention, and the remainder were in hand at the end of the year.

INSPECTION OF DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Twenty-four applications were received for registration as Purveyors of Milk.

Of these 14 were for the sale of Sterilized Milk in bottles, all of which were granted, and 10 for raw milk.

The licence for the sale of Certified Milk was renewed and periodical samples were taken at the request of the Ministry of Health and submitted for Bacteriological examination, satisfactory reports being received subsequently. The Dairyman to whom a licence for the bottling of Grade A milk was granted in the previous year abandoned the proposal and has not since applied for a renewal.

There were on the Register at the end of the year 22 Cowsheds and 176 Dairies and Milk Shops.

I made 485 inspections of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops during the year.

Mr. Lyon and I were appointed as additional Inspectors under the Diseases of Animals Act for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order, 1925, which came into operation on September 1st last.

Copies of the Orders together with a covering letter were forwarded to all our cowkeepers.

In consequence of a verbal report as to a recently purchased cow not being in a satisfactory condition on one of our farms, I visited the premises in company with your Veterinary Officer. The whole of the cows in the sheds were examined, and from the udder of the suspected cow a sample of the milk was taken. This proving on examination to contain tubercle bacilli, the necessary notices to slaughter were given. The animal was taken to a Knacker's establishment and after slaughter a post mortem examination was conducted, when it was found that the cow had been suffering from Generalised Tuberculosis. Compensation was paid and the necessary steps to secure disinfection taken. It should be stated that every facility and assistance was offered by the owner of the cow in question.

WORK UNDER THE SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

During the year 140 samples were taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts and handed to the Borough Analyst.

Decisions were given in four cases of alleged milk adulteration during the year. In two instances where summonses were issued against a farmer consigning milk by rail, defendant was ordered to pay the costs, amounting to £2 : 15 : 6 in each case. In the third case taken against a local producer, a fine of £3 and £1 : 15 : 6 costs was imposed, and in the fourth case a milk retailer was fined £2 and ordered to pay the costs £1 : 15 : 6.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The establishments at which bone boiling and fat melting and candle making respectively are carried on have been regularly inspected. The scheduling of fish frying as an offensive trade and the adoption of a model code of Bye-laws for regulating fried fish shops has led to a considerable increase in the number of offensive trades. All the existing fried fish shops in the Borough were visited and the necessary particulars obtained to enable a register to be prepared, and numerous improvements have since been effected.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES AND HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

The Licenses for the two Registered Common Lodging Houses were renewed, and same have been kept under close supervision.

The tendency to acquire former business premises (including delicensed public houses) and to convert them into houses let in lodgings is becoming more marked, and we have now 13 such tenement houses on the Register.

Although substantial sums are charged for accommodation in these tenement houses, living conditions are rarely satisfactory and frequent visits on the part of the Sanitary Staff are requisite.

SANITARY SUPERVISION OF THEATRES, MUSIC HALLS, ETC.

I made my customary inspections of the local Theatres and Cinemas prior to licenses being granted.

Advantage was taken of these visits to secure the remedying of temporary defects.

WORK UNDER THE MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACT.

The continued shortage of accommodation at Great Barr Hall has precluded action being taken in several of Mental Deficiency cases investigated during the year where institutional treatment was deemed desirable, and it was only possible to deal with the cases of C.G., and E.G.W. Orders were obtained for the removal of these cases and both patients were subsequently taken to Great Barr Hall. In the instance of E.G.W., the father of the defective was ordered to contribute towards her maintenance.

RENTS RESTRICTION ACT.

Four applications were made for Certificates under the Rents Restriction Act, all of which were granted.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

Three hundred and forty-eight rooms were disinfected after Infectious Disease.

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF NIGHT SOIL AND DRY REFUSE.

REMOVAL.

At the end of the year 1925, there were 224 privies and approximately 14,260 water closets in connection with dwelling houses, public buildings, and works in the Borough.

The percentage of houses with privies, all with but very few exceptions situate in areas where no public sewer is available is 1.2.

As in past years several occupiers of cottagers and farms emptied their own privies, utilising the contents for manurial purposes. The remaining privies and also the contents of a few cesspools were scavenged by the department. The total number of emptyings was 201, the number of loads removed 516, and the approximate weight 611 tons. This refuse is deposited on agricultural land.

The cost of this branch of the work was £231 : 10 : 9, being made up as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Fillers Wages	104	0	4
Transport Charges	101	2	4
Wednesbury Corporation for emptying Works			
privy	7	2	6
Rent of Tip	13	0	0
Implements and Repairs	5	4	7
Incidentals	1	1	0
	<hr/> £231 10 9 <hr/>		

The cost in 1924 was £241.

The approximate number of ashbins emptied weekly was 12,160, the number of dry ashpits which are scavenged at less frequent intervals being 414.

Motor vehicles have been exclusively employed for the purpose of dry refuse removal. Our normal fleet consists of six Ford Tonners hired from the Motor Transport Department. Towards the end of the year the services of an additional motor had to be requisitioned. Three fillers are attached to each vehicle in addition to the driver.

In all we collected 17,951 tons of ashbin refuse, 1,117 tons of ashpit refuse, 400 tons from Hallam House, and Wigmore Schools, and 172 tons of Fish and other Trade Refuse. Our total tonnage (all of which was weighed) was therefore 19,640, as compared with 20,115 in 1924, and 21,787 in 1923.

This reduction in tonnage does not imply that any less work has been accomplished, indeed the contrary is the case, for we actually collected 800 loads more refuse in 1925 than in 1924, the explanation being that refuse although quite as bulky in its nature is, owing to the diminished proportion of cinders, and increased quantity of garden refuse becoming relatively lighter in character a further explanation being that the Fish Refuse barely averaged five cwts. per load.

The gross cost of collection of dry refuse of all classes was £5,840 : 14 : 1, as compared with £5,960 in 1924, £6,557 : 11 : 4 in 1923, £7,304 : 18 : 9 in 1922, and £9,794 : 9 : 6 in 1921.

The cost of collection per ton was 5/11.4d. or if the Trade Refuse collection be excluded 5/10.9d. per ton as compared with 5/11.1d. in 1924, 6/3 in 1923, 6/5.9d. in 1922, and 7/11.6d. in 1921. The last year's tonnage figure having regard to the progressive diminution of weight per load must be regarded as extremely satisfactory.

The following are the details of the dry refuse collection costs—

	£	s.	d.
Wages	2942	12	5
Lorry Hire	2868	14	7
Implements and Repairs	26	1	10
Incidentals	3	5	3
	<hr/>		
	£5840	14	1
	<hr/>		

Transport costs per ton (including drivers' wages) amounted to 2/11.1d. as compared with 2/11.8d. in 1924. As stated in my last Report, a Ford Motor travels 225 miles per week, and on an average collects 66 loads of refuse in that period. Some controversy having arisen as to whether a weekly collection of ashbin refuse is less economical than the less frequent removal of the contents of an ashpit, the following record of our experience during the year 1925 may be of interest.

The cost of collection per ton for ashbin refuse was 6/-, dry ashpit refuse 5/5.9d. per ton, the Hallam House and Wigmore refuse 5/7.7d. per ton. These comparative figures seem to show that the collection of ashbin refuse is more costly than that from ashpits, but a further comparison shows that this inference is inaccurate, for whereas the collection of refuse from a house with an ashbin costs 7/1.2d. per annum, the refuse from a house with an ashpit costs 9/0.6d. per annum. This apparent discrepancy is occasioned by the difference in yield of refuse per house, the yield from the house on the ashbin system being 23.8 cwts. per annum, and from a house on the ashpit system 32.9 cwts.

Owing to the limited number of houses on the privy system and the fact that disposal costs are so small in character valid comparison cannot be drawn, but it may be mentioned in passing that the average yield per house is 60.3 cwts. per annum, the cost of collection per house being 24/3.2d. per annum. Of the sums received for the collection and disposal of trade refuse, £87 : 3 : 6 has been allocated to the collection account. The net cost of removal of refuse of every description for the year under review

was therefore £5,985 as compared with £6,138 in 1924, £6,789 in 1923, £7,708 in 1922, and £10,212 in 1921. Refuse removal in 1925 involved a rate of 5.8d. in the £; the cost per 1,000 of the population being £75 : 10 : 10.6d. per head of population 1/6.1d. and per house per annum (excluding Hallam House and Wigmore Schools) 7/4.7d.

DISPOSAL.

The whole of dry refuse collected has again been delivered continuously to the works throughout the year.

Owing to the increased proportion of garden and other vegetable matter and our extending system of fish collection, the erection of a second furnace had to be undertaken. This was constructed according to our own design and is working very satisfactorily. To enable us to cope with the growing volume of renewals, a drilling machine, portable hearth and anvil were purchased, since when the following renewals have taken place.—

CINDER CONVEYOR—new chain of 80 links with connecting pins provided.

DUST CONVEYOR has been extended, new tumblers fixed, driving shaft and dust funnel renewed, and four sets of slippers and 21 new links made.

SCREEN.—We have made and fixed 12 5/8" steel grids and six 1 3/4" grids and renewed one ball race.

SCREEN CONVEYOR.—Broken driving shaft, tension brackets, etc., renewed.

WASHER.—The cinder and debris chains comprising in all 112 links have been renewed and other improvements effected.

PICKING BELT.—Tumblers have been re-lined and adjusted.

SLUDGE PIT.—New straining grid and paddle blades have been provided.

These renewals have naturally had a marked effect on our costs, the term "Repairs and Maintenance," showing an increase of £200 as compared with the previous year, but owing to economies in other directions, the total extra expenditure amounted only to £55. The following are particulars of the working costs :—

Wages	£	1626
Lighting, Power and Water	170	
Repairs and Maintenance	442	
Tipping Dust (Horse Hire)	646	
Rates and Taxes	649	
Oil and Sundries	41	
	<hr/>	
	£3574	
	<hr/>	

The expenditure in 1924 was £3,519.

Owing to the great fall in prices obtainable for scrap iron, our Salvage receipts are nothing like so high as they promised to be at the commencement of the year, but thanks to an increased demand for cinders the sales reached the sum of £766 as compared with £765 in 1924.

The details of the receipts are as follows:—

Washed Cinders	£	152
Scrap Metal	336	
Rags and Bagging	120	
Bones	79	
Glass Cullett	14	
Jars and Bottles	15	
Furnace Dust	11	
Paper	19	
Disposal of Fish	20	
	<hr/>	
	£766	
	<hr/>	

In addition the sum of £82 was received for public weighings, making a total income of £848, the net working expenditure being therefore £2,726 as compared with £2,706 in 1924, and £2,778 in 1923. This slight increase having regard to the circumstances before enumerated, and the circumstances that the average wage rate was high and that practically the whole of the staff enjoyed the additional six days holiday with full pay cannot but be regarded as satisfactory.

The net cost of disposal was 2/9.3d. per ton.

The total cost of disposal including capital charges on the new plant, balance of consulting engineers fee, and loan charges on the former Destructor (which amounted to £2,669) was £5,395 or the equivalent of a rate of 5.1d. in the £.

The combined rate for Removal and Disposal was approximately 11d. in the £.

It is interesting to note that on an average the total cost per house of removing refuse and disposing of it in a reasonably hygienic fashion is 14/4d. per annum or approximately $3\frac{1}{4}$ d. per week, or per head of population 2/10.4d. per annum or approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per week.

I am, Miss Hazel and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

H. H. SPEARS,

Fellow Sanitary Inspectors' Association,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

MAY, 1926.

TABLE I.

	1925
House-to-House Inspections	1527
Other Housing Inspections	113
Miscellaneous Inspections, including the Inspection of common yards and houses concerning which complaints have been received	11234
Re-inspections	10362
Visits to Slaughter-houses	1397
Visits to Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	485
Visits to Shops (Butchers')	2971
Visits to Shops (Fish, Game, and Poultry)	728
Visits to Bakehouses, Factories and Workshops	96
Visits to Common Lodging Houses	151
Visits in connection with Mental Deficiency Act	22
Sundry Visits	1334
Visits to Theatres, etc.	10
Visits to Offensive Trades	267
Visits under Meat Regulations " Notices to Kill "	232
Total	30929

	1925
Number of Preliminary Notices Served	2400
Number of Statutory Notices Served	887
Numbers of Letters written to Owners, <i>re</i> Nuisances	241
Number of Letters written to Owners, <i>re</i> Ashbins	48
Notices Served under Canal Boats Acts	2
Reports sent to Borough Surveyor, <i>re</i> Dangerous Buildings, etc.	86
Reports sent to Water Company, <i>re</i> Wastes of Water	75
Number of Rooms Disinfected	348
Applications for Certificates under Rent Act	4
Number of Certificates Granted	4

TABLE II.
PARTICULARS OF HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTIONS.

No. of District	Total House Inspections	Through	Single	Back to Back	BEDROOMS			Working Class	Others	Population	Over-crowding	More than 1 Family	Unit	Below Standard	Seriously Defective	Want of Minor Repairs and Cleansing	Fair	Privy System	Not Sewered
1.—W. E. LYON	539	476	20	43	7	294	238	533	6	2643	28	78	6	45	16	122	350	2	2
2.—G. H. SHAW	261	217	8	36	1	108	152	242	19	1193	8	31	7	32	30	104	88	—	76
3.—W. W. FOAKES	727	550	55	122	27	403	297	665	62	3723	80	128	56	136	154	233	148	4	4
Totals	1527	1243	83	201	35	805	687	1440	87	7559	116	237	69	213	200	459	586	6	6

TABLE III.

PRELIMINARY NOTICES SERVED AND NUMBER OF
HOUSES IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

	Notices Served.	Houses in connection with Notices.
To make houses fit for habitation	210	724
Dirty and Dilapidated Houses	572	1260
Dirty and Dilapidated Out-buildings	294	765
Defective Paving and Surface Channels	12	26
Defective Eaves and Down Spouting	48	91
Choked Drainage and W.C.'s	257	742
Insufficient Ashbin Accommodation	524	1560
Defective W.C. connections	148	470
Dirty State of Sanitary Conveniences	103	103
Overcrowded Rooms	4	4
Animals Improperly Kept	15	15
Dirty Yards and Offensive Accumulations	129	159
Water in Cellars	4	5
Insufficient Water Supply	46	141
Filthy Bakehouses	2	2
Dairies and Cowshed not in accordance with the Regulations	1	1
Slaughter-house not in accordance with the Regulations	—	—
Dangerous Wells and Cisterns	8	15
Miscellaneous	11	17
Workshops with Insufficient W.C. Accommodation	12	12
Totals	2400	6112

TABLE IV.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT IN DISTRICT
IN PURSUANCE OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND
NOTICES SERVED.

INTERIORS OF HOUSES.

Filthy Houses Cleansed and Whitewashed	1330
Houses in which Repairs to Plastering, Brickwork or Wood- work have been carried out	1343
Flooded Cellars Drained or Filled in	54
Houses without sufficient means of Ventilation, Window Openings, or other means provided	236

EXTERIORS OF HOUSES.

Defective Roots made Watertight	...	...	...	...	966
Houses without Eaves, Spouting, or with Choked or Defective Spouting—New Spouting provided or existing Spouting Cleansed and Repaired	...	...	...	...	789
Damp External Walls, Brickwork Repaired or Covered with Impervious Material	...	...	...	...	304
Dangerous Chimneys Repaired	...	...	...	...	456

YARDS AND OUTBUILDINGS.

Surface Paving in Yards provided, Renewed or Repaired	...	60
Dangerous Wells or Cisterns filled in or suitable Covers provided	...	69
New Earthenware Sinks provided in lieu of old Brick Sinks, or Old Sinks Repaired	...	264
Dirty and Dilapidated Outbuildings Cleansed and Repaired	...	844
Dangerous Boundary Walls Repaired	...	23

DRAINAGE.

Surface Channels abolished and Stoneware Pipe Drains provided	...	6
Defective Drainage Re-laid or Repaired	...	27
Number of Manhole Inspection Chambers provided to Drainage Systems	...	1
Additional Gullies Fixed	...	8
Choked Drainage Opened and Cleansed	...	211
Covers provided to Inspection Chambers	...	18
Cesspools abolished	...	2

PRIVIES, WATER CLOSETS, AND ASHPITS.

Privies Abolished	...	4
Middens Abolished	...	5
Dry Ashpits Abolished and Dustbins Substituted	...	26
Water Closets with Flush Cisterns Substituted for Privies	...	4
Fresh Water Closets Substituted for Waste Water Closets	...	8
Additional Ashbins Provided	...	1027
Choked Water Closets Opened and Cleansed	...	159
Defective W.C. Connections made good	...	265
Insufficient Supply of Water to W.C.'s., Flush Improved	...	100
Offensive Urinals Repaired	...	1
Additional Water Closets Provided	...	2

KEEPING OF ANIMALS AND OFFENSIVE ACCUMULATIONS.

Nuisances from the keeping of Swine abated	...	19
Fowls or other Poultry kept in Dwelling Houses, or so as to be a Nuisance—Removed from Premises	...	21
Offensive Accumulations	...	86
Animals Improperly Kept	...	33

OVERCROWDING.

Houses overcrowded—Numbers reduced	1
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MISCELLANEOUS.

Manure Pits Provided or Repaired	10
Miscellaneous Nuisances Abated	11
Dirty Approaches to Privies and Conveniences Cleansed by Occupiers	...	...	...	...	146
Vans removed from District	...	...	...	...	14

WATER SUPPLY.

Houses without a proper supply of Drinking Water, Water Laid On	48
-----------------------------------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

Dirty and Dilapidated Bakehouses or Workshops Cleansed or Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Additional Closet Accommodation Provided or Existing Accommodation Improved	7
Miscellaneous Improvements	1

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Floors Repaired	4
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INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Walls Cleansed and Stripped	—
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HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ETC.,, ACT.

Houses Unfit for Habitation—Closed...	—
Houses Unfit for Habitation—Demolished	1
Back-to-back Houses made into through Houses	...	...	...	—
Single Houses made into through Houses	...	...	...	—
Total				9017

TABLE V.
RESULTS OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Situation of Premises.	Nature of Complaint.	Acts or Regulations under which proceedings taken.	Results.
G.W. Railway Station	Consigning Milk containing 6 parts of added water	Sale of Food and Drugs Acts	Defendant ordered to pay costs, £2 : 8 : 6
G.W. Railway Station	Consigning Milk containing 8 parts of added water	Sale of Food and Drugs Acts	Defendant ordered to pay costs, £2 : 8 : 6
100 & 102, Hill Top with 5 to 13 Hawkes Lane	Dirty and dilapidated houses	P.H.A. 1875 Section 97	Case adjourned to permit owner to execute work. Summons subsequently withdrawn on payment of costs
4 to 8, Grout Street	Dilapidated houses and outbuildings	P.H.A. 1875 Section 97	Work executed prior to hearing. Defendant ordered to pay 9/- costs
24, Harwood Street	Leaking Roof	P.H.A. 1875 Section 97	Case adjourned to permit owner to execute work. Summons subsequently withdrawn on payment of costs 30/-
26, Harwood Street	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto

TABLE V.—continued.

Situation of Premises.	Nature of Complaint.	Act or Regulations under which proceedings taken	Results.
16 to 20, Colley Street	Dirty and dilapidated houses and outbuildings	P.H.A. 1875 Section 97	Several adjournments granted to enable owner to execute work. Summonses afterwards withdrawn on payment of costs
Lyndon Street	Selling Milk containing 18 parts of added water	Sale of Food and Drugs Acts	Defendant fined £3 and ordered to pay costs £1 : 15 : 6
67, Moor Street	Selling Milk deficient of 30 per cent of its natural fat	Ditto	Defendant fined 40/- and ordered to pay costs £1 : 15 : 6

TABLE VI.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	160
(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28

1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3112
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1527
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	413

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	689
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	123
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit—								
(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	97
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.								
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1841
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied—								
(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	169
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing
Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	2
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	1
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	1
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	1

Borough Analyst's Report.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee,
County Borough of West Bromwich.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

During the year 1925, 140 Samples were received for Analysis under the Food and Drugs Acts from Mr. Spears.

The same procedure was followed in obtaining samples as heretofore, these being purchased in a formal or informal manner.

By the former method all the formalities of the Act are followed as to division and notification, whilst in the latter, the vendor is not aware that the purchase is being made for the purpose of analysis.

Occasionally the informal procedure has directed attention to adulteration that might not have been detected by the official method, but in the past year with two exceptions, all the samples purchased after this fashion were genuine.

A complete list of the articles submitted for analysis is contained in the following Table, and according to their quality they are divided into three classes, viz :—

- (1) Genuine and of good quality.
- (2) Genuine, complying with the necessary low limits, but of poor quality.
- (3) Adulterated.

Description of Article	Total Number of Samples.	Official Samples.	Informal Samples.	Genuine.		Genuine but Inferior Samples		Adulterated Samples.		Remarks.
				Official	Informal	Official	Informal	Official	Informal	
Milk ...	73	67	6	61	5	3	—	3	1	Preservatives Absent
Sterilized Milk	2	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	Do.
Butter	10	—	10	—	10	—	—	—	—	Boron Preservatives absent
Lard ...	6	—	6	—	6	—	—	—	—	
Pepper	7	—	7	—	7	—	—	—	—	
Magnesia	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	Vendor cautioned
Coffee	2	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	
Castor Oil	5	—	5	—	5	—	—	—	—	
Borax...	4	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	—	
Boric Acid	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Bicarbonate of Soda	6	—	6	—	6	—	—	—	—	
Vinegar	3	1	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	
Compound Liquorice Powder	2	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	
Flour ...	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Cream of Tartar	3	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	
Cocoa	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Citrate of Magnesia	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Sponge Cake...	2	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	
Bread Roll	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Glycerine	3	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	
Camphorated Oil ...	4	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	—	
Seidlitz Powder	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	
	140	69	71	62	69	3	—	4	2	

From the table it will be seen that six samples were condemned or a percentage of 4.2, compared with 5 for the previous year. If however the unofficial milk (3529) be excluded and in making the comparison this should be done as the food was not on sale, the adulteration is the same as for the year 1923, namely 3.5 per cent.

The next table gives a list of the adulterated foods and drugs with particulars as to the nature of the adulteration, and also the results of any legal action taken against the vendors.

Description of Article and Number of Sample	Nature and extent of Adulteration	Remarks
Milk (formal) 3514	Added water 18%	Vendor fined £3 and £1 : 5 : 0 costs
Milk (informal) 3529	Deficient of 26% of its natural milk fat	Sample taken from individual cow in a herd of 6 cows. The mixed sample of the herd was satisfactory.
Milk (formal) 3537	Deficient of 30% of its natural milk fat	Vendor fined £2 and £1 : 15 : 6 costs
Milk (formal) 3597	Deficient of 4% of its natural milk fat	Vendor cautioned
Magnesia (informal) 3522	Magnesium Carbonate supplied instead of the oxide	Vendor cautioned
Magnesia (formal) 3533	Magnesium Carbonate supplied instead of the oxide	Vendor cautioned

Milk again provided rather more than half of the total samples analysed, and the record shows a slight improvement on the previous year when six samples were condemned, whilst three, the same as in 1924, though complying with the Regulations of the Board of Agriculture were of poor quality.

It is satisfactory to again be able to report the absence of preservatives from all the samples received for analysis.

The sponge cakes also as in 1924 maintained their freedom from boron compounds, eggs being used in their production that were free or practically free from this preservative.

The butters and margarines also showed a similar absence of boric additions.

Two samples of magnesia from the same vendor, an informal and a formal one were condemned, the carbonate being supplied instead of the oxide. The vendor was cautioned as to the necessity of supplying the drug asked for, and on the understanding that greater care would be exercised, no proceedings were taken.

All the other samples proved to be genuine, the drugs being in accordance with the requirements of the British Pharmacopoeia.

I remain,

Yours obediently,

HARRY SILVESTER, B.Sc., F.I.C.,

Public Analyst.

